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AND SINGING-CLASS CIRCULAR.

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...

JANUARY 1, 1877.

## TO OUR READERS.

THAT we rarely claim the attention of our readers upon any other subject than that of the art to which our journal is devoted may be accepted in proof of a conviction that our labours in the cause we advocate have so effectually gained the good opinion of the public as to render either prospective or retrospective addresses unnecessary. When an individual enters into a compact to perform a certain duty, it is suffi-cient for those who put their trust in him if he honourably fulfil that duty; but if he will insist upon periodically calling attention to his strict integrity in carrying out what he has solemnly pledged himself to do, he must not be surprised if some cynical persons begin to doubt his sincerity, and to watch with suspicion his future movements. Impressed with this feeling, we have carefully abstained from alluding to the inconvenience we have constantly experienced in being compelled to exclude matters of importance from our columns, because we knew that unless some remedy were at the same time devised, such allusions could have no possible interest, and might be looked upon by many as mere indications of a desire to prove to our readers the excessive value of the space at our command. As we are now, however, prepared with a practical announcement on the subject, we crave permission to say a few words on our future plans, and also to recall some of the recollections of a period when music was struggling to assert its real power in this country.

To say that The Musical Times was instituted to "supply a want" is so conventional a method of expressing the reason for its publication that we should be loth to use these words were we not convinced that in this particular instance we are merely stating a truth which any student of the history of the art in England may prove for himself. The issue of cheap classical music by Messrs. Novellowas the first step towards inculcating a love for the

works of the great composers amongst the masses. Amateurs, indeed, there were whose cultivated taste enabled them to appreciate most thoroughly the noble musical treasures bequeathed to us, and whose zeal in the cause urged them to devote both time and money to the promotion of concerts for the performance of compositions of the highest character; but the price of admission to hear these works was on a level with the price of the works themselves; and the enjoyment of good music, therefore, was necessarily limited to the moneyed few. Yet, as we have already hinted, the reform was at hand, and gradually, but surely, throughout the country grew up a reverence for those compositions of which little but the names had before been known. To the multitude, sacred events were recorded and religious truths preached in a language which sank deeply and firmly into the hearts of those even to whom its accents were strange; and in many towns and villages Handel and Haydn shortly took their places side by side with Shakespeare and Milton. It could scarcely be expected, however, that home performance of works requiring an organised choir should long be considered satisfactory, and public and private musical Societies, therefore, rapidly sprang up for the cultivation of an art the elevating and refining influence of which had been previously unknown to the people at large. The efforts of Mainzer and Hullah (the latter of whom founded his system upon that of Wilhem) were mainly instrumental in spreading far and wide a knowledge of as much of the art of singing as was necessary for the formation of Choral Classes; and however in later days we have begun to discuss the relative merits of the "fixed" and "movable" Do, there can be no doubt that the thanks of all music-lovers are due to these missionaries, who, in spite of much apathy, and even opposition, succeeded not only in materially helping the dissemination of cheap music, but in teaching people to read the works which were thus placed within their reach. At this juncture-August 1841 — Mr. Mainzer published the first number of the National Singing Circular, with the express object of assisting, and recording the progress of, choral bodies throughout the kingdom. The sale of this journal extended so rapidly, that before a twelvemonth had elapsed it became necessary to commence a new series, under the name of Mainzer's Musical Times and Singing Circular, the retention of the second title being a guarantee that, although the publication was now intended to assume the more ambitious form of a Musical Paper, it would also faithfully reflect the state and prospects of London and provincial Choral Societies, as before. After the issue of only two numbers, it was announced that a musical composition of one of the established masters would be presented to every subscriber of six months; and in a very short time a Choral piece, especially adapted for Singing Classes, was published as a portion of the number itself, a feature which has been preserved intact to the present day. It was fortunate that the journal eventually fell into the hands of Mr. J. A. Novello, for as he possessed the copyright of many important works, the general public had thus the opportunity of collecting a library of valuable choral compositions at the trifling cost of threehalfpence each. That the success of The MUSICAL TIMES, however, far exceeded the expectation even of its proprietor may be gathered from the fact that in the Preface to one of the early volumes it is frankly stated that a title-page and index had

that the distinction of binding awaited it." It will be unnecessary to trace the history of the journal, which under its new name, THE MUSICAL TIMES AND SINGING-CLASS CIRCULAR, gradually won its way to the world-wide reputation it now enjoys. Other musical periodicals grew around it, but the special mission of THE MUSICAL TIMES remained untouched; and although latterly our contemporaries have occa-sionally reported provincial concerts, our "Brief Summary of Country News" is as anxiously looked for and as fully appreciated as ever. As years rolled on, its importance as an organ of the musical world became so universally acknowledged that the journal was by degrees expanded to twelve, sixteen, twenty, and, in January 1868-when additional leading articles, the introduction of Reviews, and an immense increase of advertisements forcibly pressed even upon our enlarged space—to thirty-two
pages. For nine years no alteration has been made
in the size of the journal; but its growth during this time, not only in circulation, but in public estimation, has been so decisive, that its further enlargement now becomes an imperative necessity; and in laying before our readers, as briefly as possible, an outline of our intentions, we trust they will admit that as we were compelled to narrow or extend our sphere of usefulness in the future, we have chosen by far the

wiser course of the two. The permanent enlargement of THE MUSICAL Times from thirty-two to forty-eight pages commences with the present number. The additional space thus gained will be devoted chiefly to original matter, written by those whose literary acquirements and knowledge of the art are a sufficient guarantee for the value of their contributions. Reviews of new works, which have latterly been a special feature in the journal, will receive even a greater amount of attention, and will not only be considerably in-creased, but include notices of the most important compositions published abroad. It is scarcely perhaps necessary to say that from the vast accumulation of works forwarded to us we can but make a small selection for notice; but composers may place implicit faith in our impartiality, and in all cases conclude that no piece will be passed over unheeded. Foreign news upon matters connected with the art will be carefully translated from the local journals, and "Occasional Notes" upon passing events at home and abroad will appear in every number. Our enlarged space will also enable us to notice every musical performance of importance, and special attention will be bestowed upon those having a direct bearing upon the progress of the art. cordially invite correspondence from all who will clearly and temperately state their opinions, and shall be glad to encourage discussion on any point of general interest to our readers. We should wish it, however, to be distinctly understood that we must decline to insert letters which have been also forwanded to other periodicals. Let us, too, take this opportunity of impressing upon those who favour us with their communications the necessity of being as brief as circumstances will admit; and also the fact of time, as well as space, being the capital of an editor. We shall be ever ready, for instance, to reply to important questions on artistic subjects, but must positively refuse to pronounce whether smoking is injurious to the voice, or to say who were Rossini's parents, where and how he spent his childhood, where he was educated, and what were the principal events of his life, with dates—both which tasks have been recently set us by two of our most merciless correspondents.

To effectually carry out the many improvements we have mentioned, a considerable addition has been made to the permanent staff of the Paper; and particular care will be taken to secure the services of a writer in each department whose previous training and experience especially fit him for the office. The price of the journal will be raised from 2d. to 3d., the annual subscription, including postage, being 4s.; but although advantage may occasionally be taken of the opportunity now offered of extending the musical composition published in each number beyond the usual limit of four pages, this, when purchased separately, will be sold, as before, at 1½d. Our readers will see, by the present number, that amongst other reforms in the general arrangements, it now appears for the first time enclosed in a wrapper, the appropriate illustration upon which has been designed by an eminent artist. It has also been thought desirable for the future to make the volumes annual; and Volume 18, therefore, commences with the New Year, and with the first number of our enlarged series. The title-page and index of Volume 17 will be published with the February number.

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The advertisement last month announcing these contemplated changes has brought us numerous letters from subscribers warmly congratulating us upon the resolution we have formed to keep pace with the increasing demands upon our space, and kindly offering suggestions for our consideration. It would be quite impossible to notice individually these sympathetic communications, and we can only therefore generally express our gratification that the alterations we have decided upon have given such universal satisfaction. But with regard to the positive adoption of any proposition submitted to us, we can only say that so much do our correspondents differ in their views that were we to implicitly follow the advice of one half, we should unquestionably offend the other. In proof, however, that we have given all the matters referred to our serious attention, we may mention that in the selection of compositions for publication in the journal, due consideration will be bestowed upon the requirements of church choirs; for we quite agree with one of our subscribers as to the difficulty of procuring suitable music for the various portions of the service, especially by the country clergy, unless some guarantee is offered of its excellence. The plan of detaching our advertisements from the body of the paper by leaving them unpaged, so that when bound they can be torn off (as proposed by another correspondent), we think by no means desirable; for on turning to some of the early volumes, our attention has been especially attracted by the advertisements, which indeed offer an accurate history of the progress of the art; and we cannot but believe that their absence would materially detract from the interest of the work. Many other well-wishers must not conclude that their letters have been passed over because we do not here allude to them. Our deeds will now speak for us more eloquently than words; for, as we have already intimated, the confidence between an editor and his readers should be firmly cemented by the truthfulness with which a journal fulfils its mission. In commencing our New Year's enterprise, therefore, we are firm in the faith that as our efforts in the promotion of art-progress have been fully appreciated in the past, renewed exertion, with more extended means at our command, cannot fail to produce the brightest and most gratifying results in the future.

H. C. L.

### PURCELL.

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THE following is the substance of a paper read before the Musical Association on Monday the 4th ult. The musical illustrations performed were—Airs, "Sweet tyranness;" "When I am laid in earth;" Fugue, G minor; Motett, "Jehovah quam multi;" Song, "Nymphs and Shepherds;" Scene from "The Libertine":—

A most pleasant and picturesque introduction to the Purcell family is to be found in Pepys' Diary, under date Feb. 21, 1659, where we find this entry: "After dinner I back to Westminster Hall with him (Mr. Crewe) in his coach. Here I met with Mr. Lock and Pursell, Masters of Musique, and with them to the Coffee House, into a room next the water by ourselves, where we spent an hour or two. . . Here we had variety of brave Italian and Spanish songs, and a canon for eight voices, which Mr. Lock had lately made on these words, Domine Salvum fac Regem, an admirable thing . . . . Here out of the window it was a most pleasant sight to see the City from one end to the other with a glory about it, so high was the light of the bonfires, and so thick round the City, and the bells rang everywhere."

Lord Braybrooke's edition of Pepys has a note which is reprinted in the new one now in course of publication, to the effect that the two gentlemen named in the text were "Matthew Lock and Henry Purcell, both celebrated composers;" but this is an undoubted error, to which I have called the attention of the learned Editor, the Rev. Mynors Bright. It certainly could not have been Henry Purcell the composer, for although we know that he commenced his musical career at a very early age, he was only one year old at the date Pepys made the entry in his diary; and admitting he might have had a very lovely voice even at that period, I cannot believe he would have been considered a desirable addition to Mr. Pepys's musical party. As no mention is made of the Christian name of Purcell, we must conclude that Pepys met either the uncle, Thomas Purcell, or the father, Henry Purcell.

The uncle was undoubtedly a musician of reputation and ability. Various entries in official and Court records testify to the numerous appointments he held, such as Gentleman in Ordinary of the Voice and Lute to His Majesty, Composer to the Violins to His Majesty, and Lay Vicar of Westminster Abbey. compositions are now lost, with the exception of two chants in frequent use in our Cathedrals. A year before his death, probably feeling age or infirmities creeping on, he seems to have retired from active service, for he then executed a power of attorney authorising his son Matthew to receive all payments due from His Majesty's Treasury, Exchequer Coffery Office, "or any other place or office whatsomever." On his death in 1682 he was buried in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey. The power of attorney I have brought for inspection; it is interesting, on account of the autograph signatures of Thomas Purcell and of his niece Frances, the wife of the celebrated Purcell, and I am inclined to think that Pepys met Thomas Purcell, from the little circumstance that the son of the latter was named Matthew, possibly out of compliment to Locke; but it may after all have been his brother, Henry Purcell, the father of the great Henry, for he also copyist of the last-named church, an appointment of place by his side in the old Abbey.

considerable importance at that time. He is generally accredited with the composition of one chant still in use bearing the name of Purcell. He died in 1664, and was buried in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey. His wife survived him five years, and although we have no record of their respective ages, it is probable they were both young at the time of their deaths.

We now come to the son, Henry Purcell, "the boast and pride of English musicians," who was born in St. Anne's Lane, Old Pye Street, Westminster, in 1658.

Purcell was only six years old when deprived by death of his father's care, but his uncle Thomas, of whom I have been speaking, bestowed on him all the loving devotion of a parent, and immediately placed him where his precocious genius would receive nurture and cultivation. It was an early age to commence life as a chorister-boy in the Chapel Royal, but at that time and for long after children generally entered choirs at the age of six or seven. When young Purcell joined the Chapel Royal establishment he had the advantage of instruction from a most able master, Captain Cooke, a man who had won laurels in the battle-field fighting for his king, and also in the more peaceful arena of music. He was composer, actor, and singer, and is frequently mentioned by Pepys. On the death of Cooke, his pupil Pelham Humphrey-or Humphries-became master of the boys; and he, a man of considerable genius, must have done much to develope the powers of the young prodigy under his charge. He lived two years to carry on the work, and was succeeded by Blow, also a pupil of Cooke, who doubtless did something toward educating Purcell. At the age of eighteen Purcell, probably through Blow's interest, was appointed music-copyist to Westminster Abbey, and four years later Blow resigned the post of organist in his favour, from which fact we can imagine how highly he must have estimated the genius and ability of Purcell. Blow was himself a remarkable musician and composer, and fifteen years afterwards, when Purcell died, he was re-appointed organist of the Abbey. Blow must have possessed a most amiable and generous disposition, devoid of jealousy or mean envy, for, in addition to this instance of self-sacrifice on behalf of Purcell, he similarly resigned his post as master of the boys of St. Paul's Cathedral in favour of another remarkable pupil, Jeremiah Clark. Purcell's triumphs rapidly increased, and we soon find him occupying the distinguished post of Organist of the Chapel Royal and Composer in Ordinary to his Majesty. He wrote music for the Church, the Court, and the theatre, producing works for each in great number. But, alas! his sunshine was all too short, for at the early age of thirty-seven (a period which has proved fatal to more than one great musical genius) he ceased from his labours, and was borne to an honoured grave in West-minster Abbey, beneath the organ which had so ofter resounded to his divine harmony. This was in the year 1695. I must now retrace my steps to speak of Purcell's married life. He took to himself a wife when twenty-two or twenty-three years of age, about the time he succeeded to the organistship of Westminster, and had six children, four of whom died young. I have already referred to the probability young. I have already referred to the probability that Purcell's parents were short-lived. Coupling these significant facts together—the brief lives of father, mother, son, and grandchildren-we have prewas a musician of reputation, a member of the Royal Band, a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal, master of the chorister boys of Westminster Abbey, and music years, and, dying in 1706, she found a quiet restingI suppose most of you are familiar with the aspersions which have been cast on the memory of Purcell's wife—the idle tale which attributes, with such particularity of detail, harsh and unfeeling conduct, resulting at last in the premature and untimely death of Purcell.

It is always easy to promulgate a scandal, but very difficult to trace its origin, and ofttimes still more difficult to refute it. In this case, I have little doubt, the whole story is a base and wicked invention; but, reflecting as it does on the memory of both Purcell and his wife, I propose briefly to state my reasons for the opinion I have formed. Sir John Hawkins, the musical historian, printed the narrative, and although he doubted its authenticity, and suggested that Purcell might have died of decline, yet he added some grave reflections on Purcell's presumed habits of dissipation, and of the bad company he associated with, particularly the notorious Tom Brown. On Haw-kins, therefore, rests a large share of responsibility for perpetuating the slander. Miss Hawkins, his daughter, indignant at some idle stories in circulation respecting her mother's treatment of Sir John, wrote thus: "Mrs. Purcell, I should conjecture, had other modes of attracting Mr. Purcell, yet perhaps the whole story may have been as gross falsification as that by which Lady Hawkins is vilified."

The late Richard Clarke cannot be considered blameless in this Purcell matter. He was an enthusiastic and kind-hearted man, but wanting in discrimination, and too ready to draw conclusions from unproved and insufficient evidence. His volume of Glee Poetry contains the words of Purcell's catch, "Jack, thou'rt a toper." I will read the lines and Clarke's comments thereon:—

" Jack, thou'rt a toper, let's have t'other quart; Ring, we're so sober, 'twere a shame to part; None but a coward, bully'd by his wife For coming late, fears a domestic strife; I'm free, and so are you, to call and knock. Boldly the watchman cries, past two o'clock."

Clarke informs us that the "Jack" apostrophised as a "toper" was Dr. John Blow, and goes on to say: "There is a tradition that Purcell's death was occasioned by a severe cold, which he caught waiting for admittance into his own house. It is said he used to keep late hours. He appears to have spent much time with Tom Brown, who wrote the words of most of his catches. The wits of that day used to meet at Owen Swan's in Bartholomew Lane, and at Purcell's Head in Wych Street. His wife had given orders to the servants not to let him in if he came home after midnight. Unfortunately his companions had got hold of this and kept him late, as usual, which was the cause of Tom Brown writing the words of the above catch, which Purcell set to music before he went home. Being refused admittance at home, he sat down on the step of his own door and fell asleep, and through the inclemency of the night contracted a disorder of which he died. This but ill agrees with the expressions of grief she makes use of in the Orpheus Britannicus, for the loss of her dear lamented husband."

These interesting particulars are so precise that it would seem to be almost impossible to attempt to entrovert them, but fortunately they can be shown to be untrue from beginning to end. The words of the catch were not written by Tom Brown, and are of course not to be found in his works; moreover, instead of Brown having written most of the words of Purcell's catches, it is tolerably certain that Purcell never set a line of Brown's poetry.

In the year 1768 Dr. Arne gave a concert at Drury Lane Theatre, the programme consisting of glees and catches; and for that concert he published a book of the words, which I have here. In it we find Purcell's "Jack, thou'rt a toper," with the following note: "The words of this last catch are said to be written by Purcell, wherein, it is obvious, that he meant no elegance with regard to the poetry, but made it intirely subservient to his extream pretty design in the music."

"Jack, thou'rt a toper" is to be found in Purcell's opera "Bonduca," composed by him the year before he died. The libretto was an adaptation from the play of the same name by Beaumont and Fletcher, but the alterations and additions were made anonymously; it is, therefore, highly probable that Arne is correct in assigning the words and the music of that particular catch, "Jack, thou'rt a toper," to Purcell.

Now let us deal with Purcell's alleged intimacy with Tom Brown. In the year 1693, about seventeen or eighteen months before Purcell died, Brown wrote and printed some very complimentary verses addressed to the great musician, which he headed thus: "Lines addressed to his unknown friend, Mr. Henry Purcell." These were reprinted after Purcell's death without note or addition, and we may, therefore, reasonably conclude that Purcell and Brown never became acquainted. Brown's lines are too long to quote in extenso, and the following must suffice:—

"What praises, Purcell, to thy skill are due, Who hast to Judah's monarch been so true By thee he moves our hearts, by thee he reigns, By thee shakes off his old inglorious chains, And sees new honours done to his immortal strains. In thy performance we with wonder find Corelli's genius to Bassani join'd.

Thus I, anknown, my gratitude express, And conscious gratitude could do no less. This tribute from each British muse is due; The whole poetick tribe's oblig'd to you. For where the author's scanty words have fail'd, Thy happier graces, Purcell, have prevail'd. And surely none but you, with equal case, Cou'd add to David, and make D'Urfey please."

Purcell, in his last will and testament, signed on the day of his death, bequeathed to his loving wife Frances all his estate, real and personal, for her sole use, and also nominated her executrix. We cannot find evidence here of anything but mutual affection and confidence. Many of you can call to mind how differently Shakespeare treated his wife in his will.\*

Purcell's widow made frequent public reference to the dear memory of her husband, and the following extract from her last will is specially interesting, as it shows how mindful she was of his wishes, and also that Purcell himself did not cultivate convivial society to the neglect of his family and their worldly interests. Mrs. Purcell says: "According to her husband's desire, she had given her dear son Edward good education, and she also did give him all the books of music in general, the organ, the double spinett, the single spinett, a silver tankard, a silver watch, 2 pairs of gold buttons, a hair ring, a mourning ring of Dr. Busby's, a larum clock, Mr. Edward Purcell's picture, handsome furniture for a room, and he was to be maintained until provided for."

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<sup>\*</sup> Subsequent to the reading of this paper, a friend directed my attention to Knight's able remarks on Shakespeare's will, satisfactorily proving that Shakespeare's widow was well provided for, and that the special bequest to her, which has commonly been regarded as a slight, was, on the contrary, an additional indication of favour and regard. I am glad to have this opportunity of expressing my regret for the injustice done to the memory of Shakespeare.

I have now said sufficient respecting Purcell's domestic life, and will only add that his fellow-pupil, Dr. Tudway, has borne written testimony to the studious habits of Purcell, and of his constant endeavours to excel in every branch of his profession.

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(To be concluded in our next.)

# A HAYDN MEMORIAL.

From the Neue Zeitschrift für Musik.]

(Continued from page 691.)

THROUGH Herr Pohl we now get, for the first time, a circumstantial account of Haydn's personal appearance. The following is a sketch of him when in the middle course of life: "His stature was somewhat below average height, his frame robust. The lower half of his figure had the appearance of being too short in proportion to his bust, a fact which may, in part, be accounted for by the style of dress he wore. His features were tolerably regular, full, and strongly marked, and had in them something of determination, almost of austerity, capable, however, of assuming, in conversation—by the look of his eye and a graceful smile—an expression extremely gentle and pleasing. In ordinary intercourse his whole appearance and bearing denoted deliberation and a mild earnestness, bordering upon dignity. Haydn has never been heard to laugh aloud. His look was eloquent and animated, and withal measured, kind, and inviting. Out of these dark grey eyes spoke a genuine goodness of heart, familiar only with benevolence: 'Anyone may see it in me that I am well-disposed towards everybody,' said Haydn of himself. His forehead was broad and finely arched, its proportions being, however, much reduced by the manner in which he wore his wig, which latter extended to within little more than an inch of the eyebrows, thus completely hiding the upper part of the forehead. This wig, with cue and some side-curls, was Haydn's companion throughout his life; fashion was not permitted to affect its shape; he remained faithful to it unto death. In consequence of the composer's suffering from a polypus (an inheritance, as we have seen, from his mother), the lower part of his nose had become unduly enlarged, and was, moreover-like the rest of his well-tanned features-covered with marks of the small-pox. Add to this a decidedly sensual, protruding underlip, with a broad, massive underjaw, and we can easily imagine Haydn's head to have presented that odd mixture of attractive and the repulsive, of geniality and triviality, which inspired Lavater-who had a silhouette of the great composer among his famous collection of portraits—to the following impromptu Hexameters :-

'Something in eye and nose I perceive, precluding the vulgar, Also the forehead is good; his mouth betrays the Philistine.'

Haydn thought himself to be very plain-looking, and could therefore the less comprehend the fact that he had, in the course of his life, gained the tender affections of many a beautiful woman. 'Surely my beauty could not have attracted them?' he would archly remark; he who at the same time candidly admitted that he had always been an admirer of pretty women, and who always had something polite to say to them too. His German had the broad Austrian dialect, his voice sounding rather more sharp than low, with a nasal twang in it, in consequence of the above-mentioned defect. He was but an indifferent French scholar, but was fond of conversing in Italian, of which he was completely master. His subsequent stay in London induced him, then already past sixty, to make himself acquainted also

with the English language. Of Latin he knew enough in order to read Fux's 'Gradus ad Parnassum' Of Latin he knew in the original, and to interpret, musically, the Mass-texts of his church. With the Hungarian tongue he had-his long residence in the country of the Magyars notwithstanding-never become familiar, owing, no doubt, to the fact that in those parts where he lived German had been the chief medium of conversation. In the princely house, too, German was the language of etiquette, the domestics only conversing, among themselves, in the language of the country. Although of a somewhat grave and sedate temperament, Haydn was fond of giving a humorous turn to conversation, occasionally interspersing some lively anecdote. His innate modesty prevented the mighty lever within his breast, viz., the ambition to obtain honour and fame—from degenerating into an all-absorbing ambitiousness. He looked upon his talent, not as of his own making, but as a free gift of the Creator, to whom it behoved him to show gratitude—a belief which was also perfectly in harmony with his religious sentiments. He was particularly attached to children, who, on their part, clung to their 'Haydn papa' (as they called him) with all the fond impetuosity of their age. But then he had, too, always some sweetmeats ready in his pockets, and would seize his opportunity of making fresh conquests among the youthful throng 'whene'er he took his little walks abroad.' We shall become acquainted with numerous examples of Haydn's happy gift of communicating his sense of humour to his compositions. Conscious of his own worth, he was glad to hear himself sincerely praised, while mere flattery was distasteful to him, and even caused him annoyance. Kindly disposed towards everyone, he could also be vexed if he suspected that his kindness had been abused; he would then become irritable, giving free vent to his irony.

Far more agreeable than could have been gathered from the "Decree" already mentioned must have been Haydn's position as Vice-Capellmeister to Prince Nicholas Esterhazy. Herr Pohl gives the Prince Nicholas Esterhazy. Herr Pohl gives the following account of it: "Haydn's relations to this prince, who, upon his accession to the reign, had at once increased the composer's salary by one-half, and had, moreover, generously secured him a pension in his will, were of a very cordial nature. The Prince gave his Capellmeister repeated proofs of his esteem and satisfaction, and the interest he evinced in his compositions was a spur to the master in accomplishing greater and greater works. Now and then, it is true, a word of regret at the secludedness of his position would pass from his lips, and longingly his thoughts would wander towards Italy; a kind word, however, an occasional present delicately offered, would soon dispel his gloom, and he would stand firmer than ever by his master, in whose service, according to his own expression, he desired to 'live and die.' And these words, uttered by the man in the prime of life, had an echo still in his breast when old age had crept upon him, and when his days drew to their close his heart was yet full of gratitude for the 'kind and generous' Prince Nicholas. How much his brother, Michael, envied him this princely favour and stimulating interest in his work! 'Give me proper texts,' he would often exclaim, 'and procure me the encouraging protection under which my brother lives, and I will not remain behind him!' Attempts have been made to detract from the merit due to the house of Esterhazy respecting the spiritual and material welfare of our composer. Haydn's talent, they say,

to the creation of works of greater import—had but too often been allowed to run waste, through his official obligation of writing 'occasional' music; the seclusion of his life had deprived him of the measure of his own capabilities, his official position generally having been rather an obstacle in the way of his development than otherwise. There is, indeed, some truth in this, and we must regret it. Still, we cannot but be grateful to the princely house for having afforded the master a suitable sphere for his activity at a time, be it remembered, when his name was yet by no means known. The alleged drawbacks of his situation were also not without their advantages. It was just this seclusion which contributed to the master's originality. Nor did he remain a stranger to new phases in the development of his art; they would find their way into Hungary, or if not, he would become acquainted with them upon his visits to Vienna. As to the orchestra, no other conductor ever had so absolutely the disposal of a body of musicians as he had, in order to try, at any moment, the effect of compositions just fresh from his pen. Haydn himself was far from attaching importance to everything he wrote; whatever he did consider worthy of himself has found its way into countries far remote. There can be no greater error than the supposition that it was only in consequence of his visit to London that his genius became generally known to the world; yet this has been asserted even in modern days. The name of Haydn was, on the contrary, known and esteemed everywhere already in the seventh and eighth decade of the past century; offers poured in from publishers on all sides for works from his pen, and it was he who dictated the terms.
Affluence, it is true, fell not to his share, yet there can be little doubt that, with a less spendthrift wife, his pecuniary condition would have been one of comparative ease. Considering that Nicholas had a house built for Haydn, and had spared him the miserable necessity of earning a precarious livelihood by teaching, we may well ask: Where was the Prince who would have done as much for the composer's much-esteemed friend, Mozart? Haydn himself felt contented with his position. Here are his own words on the point, which, although referring chiefly to his residence, during a later period, at Esterház, we are justified in applying also to the first years of his stay at Eisenstadt, and his position in general. He says to Griesinger (p. 24): 'The Prince was satisfied with all I did; I met with encouragement; as chief of an orchestra I was enabled to try experiments, to observe what might produce effect or weaken it; thus I could improve, add, curtail, risk. Set apart from the world, with nobody near me to shake the faith I had in myself, or to perplex me with doubts, I was bound to become original.' Long after Haydn's name had obtained a world-wide fame, he was so little blinded by the honours heaped upon him, that in his personal intercourse with princes and the leading aristocracy he still upheld, as before, certain limits. In this sense, too, he remarks to Griesinger: 'I have In this associated with Emperors, Kings, and many persons of high station, and they have spoken to me many a flattering word; yet will I not live on a familiar footing with such personages, but rather keep to people of my own station.' The composer has been called, even in recent times, a 'princely footman.' This denomination is unjust. If by it we understand a servile creature, ready at any time to humble himself before his superiors, surely Haydn was the exact reverse. He was fully aware of his own worth, and had no need to stoop low in his intercourse with the mighty. Out of many examples we might quote, in

order to refute the invidiousness of the above expression, we will select an anecdote from a later period in the composer's life, related and vouched for in all its details by several members of his orchestra. 'During a general rehearsal at which Prince Nicolaus (he who had come to reign in 1794) was present, the latter expressed his dissatisfaction with some parts of the performance. "Serene Highness," was Haydn's irritated reply, "to understand this is my business." Whereupon the Prince rose, and casting an ungracious look upon his capellmeister, quitted the room, greatly to the terror of the musicians, who every one clung to their conductor with enthusiastic affection.'"

(To be concluded in our next.)

A LETTER from Mr. C. J. Read, which appears in our present number, raises questions of such importance as to the correct text of many of Mendelssohn's. "Lieder ohne Worte," that we have looked into the matter with considerable care, in order that we may be prepared with a trustworthy reply to his remarks. The discrepancies in the editions, as noted by our correspondent, are, as he justly remarks, too considerable to be accounted for by any supposition of imperfect correction of proofs, &c. How they arose at first we are not in a position to say. In forming a judgment as to which version is the right one, it may, we think, be fairly assumed that most reliance is to be placed upon the original editions, whether English or German. If a difference is found between the earliest English and the earliest German editions, we incline to give the preference to the latter, because we think it more likely to have been corrected by the composer himself. We have before us the original German edition, published in Mendelssohn's lifetime (at least the first six books, to which alone Mr. Read refers) by Simrock of Bonn, the proprietors of the German copyright; we have also the first English editions, published by J. Alfred Novello and Messrs. Ewer and Co.; and, in addition, we have collated some of the more modern copies. We will now take Mr. Read's remarks in detail, and give the result of our investigation into each point.

No. 5, bar 40.—Simrock's and Ewer's first editions have A‡, while Novello's has A‡. The former is undoubtedly the correct reading, as the change from A‡ to A‡ is needed to establish the modulation from B minor to C‡ minor. Additional proof may be found by comparing the passage with bar 36, in which all

editions agree as to the reading.

No. 8.—Mr. Read's remarks here are unintelligible. There are no D naturals in bars 22, 55, 57, and no octaves in bars 29, 30, 63-7, nor can we find any passage to which he appears to refer. We regret that he has not quoted the text. In bar 51, which he does quote, the new editions are not only, in our opinion, the more musicianly, but they correspond with the original German edition, which those of Benedict, Bennett, &c., do not.

Nos. 9, 10, 11, and 12.—Here in every case, without exception, the readings of which Mr. Read complains are those of the original German edition, which appears to have been tampered with in some unknown way, but which modern editors have rightly restored to its old purity. We are strongly of opinion that the "bungler," who, according to Mr. Read, dealt so "clumsily" with No. 11, must have been Mendelssohn himself; for it is difficult to imagine that he would have allowed an edition, published by the firm for whom he wrote so much as he did for Simrock, to go forth to the public in a garbled state; while, even supposing the possibility of such an occurrence, it is

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evide easy orde: servi regard for his own reputation as Mendelssohn, who was notoriously careful not to publish anything with which he was not fully satisfied, should not have immediately taken steps to suppress the incorrect copies.

No. 20.—Here Mr. Read is quite right. The Dr in the fifth bar, and the Dr on the repetition of the passage, is undoubtedly the correct reading. It is printed thus in the first editions, both English and

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There is one point on which some information would be desirable, on which Mr. Read has not touched. No. 5 of the "Lieder" is inscribed "Piano Agitato." It is not easy to explain here the presence of the former word, because at the commencement of the piece a p is marked between the staves, which would seem to render the word superfluous in the heading. It cannot be a general indication for the whole piece, because the music several times rises to a forte, and once to a fortissimo. Did Mendelssohn intend by it "with slight agitation," or something equivalent? If so, it is a remarkably loose way of expressing himself, and he was generally the most accurate of men. All the older editions agree in the heading, though some of the more recent have altered it. Brandus's Paris copy, edited by Stephen Heller, gives merely "Agitato"—evidently shirking the difficulty by omitting the first word. Pauer (Augener culty by omitting the first word. Pauer (Augener and Co.'s edition) has "Presto Agitato," an emendation which has at least probability to recommend it, though we know not if there is any authority for the alteration. This matter, as well as all the others referred to, will no doubt be shortly cleared up by the publication of the "Lieder" in the new complete edition of Mendelssohn's works, now in course of issue under the supervision of Julius Rietz-an edition which will henceforth be the standard text for Mendelssohn, and which, both for correctness and completeness, leaves nothing to desire.

With regard to the titles given to the "Lieder" in some editions, they are not only spurious, but in many cases absurd. The only numbers to which ittles were added by the composer are Nos. 6, 12, and 29, each of which he has entitled "Venetianisches Gondellied," No. 18, "Duetto," and No. 23, "Volkslied." We believe we are correct in saying that the other titles were invented by Stephen Heller, for his edition named above. It is very certain that no one would have more strongly disapproved of them than

the composer.

For nearly two years past the music at one service in each week at St. Paul's Cathedral has been sustained by men's voices only. Considering that the play-ground of the chorister-boys consists of the limited area of the roof of the school-house, this is certainly a wise arrangement, inasmuch as it gives the little fellows regularly once in each week an opportunity of getting a run in the country and a breath of fresh air. As our readers are aware, there is a goodly repertory of sacred music for men's voices, in which Mendelssohn's "Festgesang" and three Motetts, Schubert's "Great is Jehovah" and Gounod's "Hail gladdening Light," stand pre-eminent for beauty of melody. We were not a little surprised, therefore, to find a correspondent of the City Press who, after attending one of these services, was evidently under the impression that the short and easy method adopted by the musical authorities in order to get male-voice music was, to take ordinary services and anthems but omit the treble part through-

still more incredible that anyone with such a keen out!! He actually writes to say—"the melody being unrepresented, the musical portion of the service was almost in dumb show." Moreover, he thought the Moreover, he thought the efforts of the organist to play the omitted Treble parts were a failure, for he says "the organ feebly endeavoured to make up the deficiency"! We condole with Tenors and Basses on this newly-discovered fact that melody is only to be found in the Treble stave! But the malcontent correspondent of our contemporary surpasses himself when he says quite seriously and in good faith-" May I ask you, Sir, or some of your more enlightened readers, whether this (service for men's voices) is any further Ritualistic development?" All we can say in reply to this is, to ask some of the more enlightened readers of the City Press whether, arguing from analogy, an organ stop of sixteen-feet pitch is, or is not, more Ritualistic than one of eight

> Some of our contemporaries have freely commented upon the recent remarkable speech of Mr. Alderman Smith, ex-Mayor of Southport; but the musical convictions of so powerful a dignitary cannot have too much publicity, and we hasten therefore to give him the additional benefit of our circulation. It appears that at the Winter Gardens of Southport a band is regularly engaged, under the directorship of Mr. A. G. Crowe, and that this gentleman, having artistic tendencies, and being desirous therefore of choosing, as well as of conducting, the compositions performed, occasionally introduced some of the works of the best masters into the programmes. This unpardon-able liberty was duly resented by Mr. Alderman Smith at a meeting on the subject, and Mr. Crowe was reminded of his real duty as a paid functionary so forcibly that we can scarcely imagine he will thus sin again, at least in Southport. "What they thus sin again, at least in Southport. "What they wanted him" (Mr. Crowe) "to consider," said the Alderman, with much warmth, "was the interest of the shareholders a little more, and not think so much of the high-class music some people puff him about. . . For himself, he could say that he was never brought up in a music-shop, but he knew he could appreciate music, and he would be better pleased if there was a little more noise in the tune." Now, without pausing to debate the question whether in order to acquire a classical taste in the art it is necessary to be "brought up in a music-shop," we cannot believe that the worthy ex-Mayor had suffi-ciently thought out his subject to express himself with clearness upon the best method of arriving at his own ideal of perfection. It is very true that by dismissing half the band (as he recommended) and cutting off high-class music, he would save money, and please many who were present at this memorable meeting; but so far from getting "more noise in the tune," we are decidedly of opinion that the latter item will be so effectually banished from the performances that even those of his own way of thinking will shortly be clamouring for "more tune in the noise."

> WHAT Mr. Carl Rosa has done for the cause of operatic music during his recent short season in London can scarcely be estimated at its real value at the present moment. It may be said that he has felt the pulse of the English people and found it tolerably healthy; but the diet he prescribed was a mixed one, suited for his patients' state, and must not be criticised too closely by those whose constitution requires neither weak food nor artificial stimulants. On the whole the works performed have been

well selected and satisfactorily executed; and although the lessee has given us more Operas in English than English Operas, he has successfully proved that audiences will crowd the theatre nightly to listen to lyrical compositions sung in the language of the country, provided only that the music be of a high order of merit. The attraction of "Fidelio," "The Flying Dutchman," and "The Water Carrier" will sufficiently attest this fact; and for all that must necessarily follow the successful issue of this experiment we need have no fear. One danger only will require to be courageously met, and if not at once crushed, at least weakened in its effect. We allude to the undue power of the vocalists. During the Pyne and Harrison management of English Opera this was the prominent obstacle to ultimate success; and again in the Carl Rosa company have we been constantly reminded of the existence of the evil. Certainly the works we have mentioned have held an important place in Mr. Rosa's bills during the season; but have not Operas been produced and others held back solely through the influence of the singers? Could we indeed offer a more positive proof of this than the fact of the principal vocalist of the establishment selecting for his benefit a poor Opera by a comparatively unknown composer, simply because there was a good acting part for the bénéficiare? Surely artists should know that they only shed lustre upon the art they follow when they steadily and earnestly uphold its best interests.

IT appears to us that when an institution which has earned so high a name in the artistic world as the Royal Academy of Music issues an advertisement announcing that the Balfe Scholarship will be competed for on a certain day, and that "the successful candidate will be enabled to one year's free education in the Academy," the utmost reliance may be placed upon the truth of such promise. A writer in the Figaro, however, who signs himself "Cherubino," thinks differently, and plainly tells his readers that, as no money can immediately come to hand from the funds of the Alexandra Palace (where a Festival was held for the promotion of the Scholarship), it follows "either that the winner of the Scholarship will have merely the empty honour for his pains, or that the Royal Academy will have to bear the loss." Now we certainly cannot see how the holder of the Scholarship can be affected by the Academy having to bear the expense of his tuition, but this portion of the sentence may pass without more comment. When "Cherubino," however, asserts, as another When "Cherubino," however, asserts, as another probability, that he may have "merely the empty honour for his pains," he not only impugns the veracity of those who have pledged themselves to found the Scholarship, but his observations may have the effect of preventing many students from competing. It is true that in the next number of the journal it is stated that "Madame Balfe has agreed to make up a great part of the difference between the dividend to be received from the Alexandra Palace liquidation and the amount of the Scholarship"; but this is no apology for the imputation cast upon the authorities of the institution in the former paragraph; and we cannot but think that it would have been better if "Cherubino" had either refrained from commenting upon the matter at all, or informed himself of the real state of the case before venturing an opinion.

We recollect once being invited to hear a pianist, who had become the pet of an amateur musical circle, perform some of Beethoven's Sonatas with "so many

alterations and additions that listeners could scarcely recognise the works." Of course we were engaged, and therefore cannot convey to our readers the slightest notion of the effect produced by this ambi-tious executant. Whether our regimental bandmasters are endeavouring to pursue the same system with the majority of the compositions selected by them we cannot say, but certain it is that the various versions of the National Anthem now in use, although no doubt very agreeable when heard separately, produce by no means a pleasant sensation when played together. This fact having now become too evident to be longer ignored, has led to an official order on the subject, an "authorised arrangement" having been approved, which is at once to supersede all others. It is also said that "the cavalry arrangement is to be used by light infantry brass-bands and rifles, and the infantry reed-band version by the cavalry when dismounted. We are not sufficiently versed in military matters to understand why the light infantry brass-bands and rifles are to play the cavalry arrangement, or why the cavalry bands "when dismounted" are forbidden to perform their own version; but no doubt all this has been wisely ordained, and at least musical ears will be no longer offended by the intolerable discord which has hitherto reigned supreme. The National Anthem may be regarded as private property; and as it is evident that its custodians look carefully after its interest, bandmasters who have a propensity to mutilate or otherwise disfigure a tune must henceforth choose one which has "no friends."

THE Organistship of the Chapel Royal, St. James's, rendered vacant by the death of George Cooper, has been filled up by the appointment of Mr. Jekyll, formerly assistant-organist of Westminster Abbey, and now holding the post of organist of St. George's, Hanover Square. Although the office is not specially remunerative, it has always been esteemed very honourable, partly from its Court associations, partly from the fact that it has from time to time been held by a series of distinguished men. It is not surprising, therefore, that more than one of our musical contemporaries should have expressed very undisguised dissatisfaction at the selection made by the Bishop of London, in whose hands the patronage lies, as being ex officio Dean of the Chapel Royal. But it is more than probable that the Bishop did not conceive that it would redound to the credit not only of his judgment but also of the musical profession if the post had been offered to some distinguished organist who might not consider it compatible with his position to make formal application for it. Hence it is that Mr. Jekyll has been selected, no doubt with professional assistance, from a bewildering list of names of applicants, which we understand reached no less than two hundred in number. Although we could mention several men whose talents as composers or abilities as organists are of so high an order as to have rendered their appointment a matter of no surprise, yet we feel it only due to Mr. Jekyll to say that he brings no common experience with him to the work, and that alike as an accompanist and soloist on the organ he holds a high reputation. We heartily congratulate him on the honour he has received.

An impostor, or rather, as our American cousins facetiously term him, a "clever confidence man," who has lately been hospitably entertained in Canada and the United States alike by clergy and musicians on representing himself to be the brother, or at other times the son, of Dr. Stainer, has brought his plea-

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WE r artist, w Regent' menced the Cha minent singer, v sant career to an untimely collapse by pleading guilty at London, Ontario, to two charges of theft. It is comforting to find that he was recognised as a certain Molesworth Kerr, in no way of course related to our metropolitan organist, who has naturally been much annoyed to hear from time to time of the unpleasant reminiscences his pseudo-relative was leaving behind him on his transatlantic tour. An advertisement appeared on several occasions in the Times warning Americans not to believe him, but apparently without much effect; and the private letters written to America by Dr. Stainer of course reached their destination uniformly after the gentleman had mysteriously disappeared.

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Some of our readers may have observed that among the officers of the Challenger scientific expedition there appeared the names of Nares, Aldrich, and Havergal. The first of these, it need hardly be said, is now Sir George Nares, whose name is on everyone's lips as leader of the Arctic Expedition; the second has been promoted to a Commander for his skill and gallantry in the same perilous voyage; the last is a Lieutenant, R.N. Musicians will be interested to know that Sir George Nares is a descendant of Dr. Nares; that Commander Aldrich is one of the line of Dean Aldrich, of musical, architectural, and logical fame; and that Lieutenant Havergal is a son of Canon Havergal, the Church musician, whose beneficial influence on hymnody is now fully recognised.

SCARCELY had our lamented brother musician George Cooper been laid in his grave, before one of our weekly musical contemporaries permitted a discussion to take place in its columns as to whether he had ever been offered the organistship of St. Paul's Cathedral. We need offer no remark on the questionable taste displayed in this. Is there no force or meaning left in the old words Requiescat in pace?

# THE LATE HENRY PHILLIPS.

We may add to the biography given in our last issue that the death of the once popular basso was somewhat unexpected, he having enjoyed his usual good health up to the week before he died. Some of our contemporaries have fallen into error in their remarks on his career. The statement that he was the original "Elijah" is wholly incorrect. Mendelssohn, writing on the 31st of August 1846, six days after the first performance of his great Oratorio at Birmingham, recounts how "Staudigl took all possible pains" with the work, and he refers to the singers of all the other parts excepting that of the second bass, the part filled by Phillips. Of this performance Phillips has written: "Mendelssohn had been led to believe that my register was not sufficiently extensive to execute the music of 'Elijah,' which he considered too high for me, and that Staudigl was the only man who could sing it. I was consequently allotted the quartets only, which we sang from manuscript parts in single lines; the task, therefore, became nervously difficult, and I confess it was with no very good grace that I sang in the Oratorio." Equally erroneous is the statement that Phillips was personally engaged in the first representation of all Balfe's operas: with the majority of them he had nothing whatever to do.

## EDWARD LAND.

We regret to announce the death of the above-named artist, which occurred at his residence, Cambridge Place, Regent's Park, on the 29th of November. He commenced his musical career as one of the children of the Chapel Royal, and was afterwards brought into prominent notice by John Wilson, the celebrated Scotch tenor singer, who acquired considerable popularity by his enter-

tainments of national Scottish song, and associated with himself as pianoforte accompanist Mr. Land. On the formation of the Glee and Madrigal Union, consisting of Mrs. Enderssohn, Miss Williams, Messrs. Lockey, Hobbs, and Henry Phillips, Land was most judiciously selected as accompanist for such pieces as required the addition of a pianoforte part, and he also occasionally officiated as second tenor vocalist. He was the author of more than one popular song, and was much esteemed for his admirable conduct as Secretary of the Noblemen and Gentlemen's Catch Club.

# G. F. ANDERSON.

The death of Mr. G. F. Anderson, which occurred on the 14th ult., in his 83rd year, will leave a blank in the list of active members of the Philharmonic Society and Royal Society of Musicians which cannot easily be replaced. Mr. Anderson was, until recently, Master of the Queen's Private Band, and even to the day of his decease held the office of Honorary Treasurer to both the above-mentioned Institutions. At the funeral, representatives of the two Societies he had so materially benefited were the pallbearers; and a large number of his professional and private friends were present.

## CRYSTAL PALACE.

SULLIVAN'S Cantata "On Shore and Sea" occupied the greater portion of the Saturday concert on the 2nd ult. This work was composed for the opening of the International Exhibition of 1871, and was first produced on that occasion at the Albert Hall. It consists of ten numbers, and is laid out for soprano and baritone solos, chorus and orchestra. Though containing much clever writing, it is not, on the whole, one of its composer's best works, a fact which may probably be accounted for by its having been written for a special occasion. It is well known that pièces de circonstance are seldom favourable specimens of their authors. The first and last movements of Mr. Sullivan's Cantata are among the best numbers. The performance at the Palace was exceedingly good: the solos were well given by Madame Lemmens-Sherrington and Mr. Wadmore, and the chorus showed the same excellence which has marked all their singing during the present season. Meyerbeer's interesting overture to "Struensee" opened, and Beethoven's great "Leonore" overture concluded, the concert, which also included Bach's Chaconne and Ernst's "Hungarian Airs," played by Herr Wilhelmj, whose répertoire seems exceedingly limited. Mr. Wadmore also sang a Romance by Mercadante, and Madame Sherrington contributed a Cavatina by Rossini.

The instrumental part of the concert on the 9th was exceedingly good. The orchestral works given were Schumann's Overture to "Genoveva," Bennett's Symphony in G minor, and Liszt's "Symphonic Poem," "Mazeppa." The first two of these three works are too familiar to need comment; Liszt's "Mazeppa" was given on this occasion for the first time in England—that is, in its original shape, it having been recently heard as a duet for two pianos at Mr. Walter Bache's recital. The work is an illustration of Victor Hugo's poem, the subject being, it is almost needless to say, the same treated by Lord Byron. Like most of Liszt's compositions, the music requires careful study and repeated hearing for its full appreciation; all that can be said of it at present is that while some parts sound obscure and vague, others give evidence of unmistakable power. The performance was one of the most wonderful pieces of playing ever heard at the Crystal Palace. The music is extremely complex and enormously difficult, but it was rendered with a finish and precision which could not have been surpassed. On the same afternoon Miss Anna Mehlig gave an excellent performance of Hiller's Pianoforte Concerto in F sharp minor. The vocalists were Miss Ida Corani and Mr. F. H. Celli. With the exception of Wolfram's song from "Tannhäuser," it cannot be said that

the vocal music was worthy of the concert.

The last of the concerts before Christmas was given on the 16th ult. The day being the anniversary of

Beethoven's birth, the programme was entirely selected from his works, and the only fault to be found with it was that it was far too long. It commenced with the Overture or "Prometheus," as illustrating the composer's earliest manner. To this succeeded the Cavatina with chorus "Never more shall sorrow grieve me," from the "Praise of Music," in which the solo part was sung by Madame Blanche Cole. Madame Arabella Goddard then played in her most brilliant and finished style the Concerto in E flat; and after songs by Mr. Edward Lloyd ("Adelaida") and Madame Antoinette Sterling ("Wonne der Wehmuth" and "Neue Liebe, neues Leben") came the Choral Symphony! To precede such a work by so lengthy a selection is in every way a mistake. After an hour's music, hearers are not fresh enough to enjoy thoroughly and appreciate fully so elaborate a masterpiece. The performance was one of very high excellence. The solo quartet consisted of the three artists named above, with the addition of Mr. H. A. Pope; and the chorus distinguished itself in the very trying music allotted to it both by precision and spirit, while the rendering of the instrumental movements was a treat of the highest order.

The concerts will be resumed on the 3rd of February the anniversary of Mendelssohn's birthday—when the programme will be selected entirely from the works of that

composer.

### GADSBY'S "ALCESTIS."

Following up their recent production of "Antigone" and "Edipus at Colonos," the directors of the Crystal Palace brought forward on the 12th ult. Euripides' "Alcestis," with music specially composed for the occasion by Mr. Henry Gadsby. Mr. Gadsby is no stranger at the Crystal Palace, several of his compositions having been given with success on various occasions at the Saturday concerts. The present is, however, so far as we know, the most important work that he has at present written, comprising in all ten numbers, several of them of considerable extent. In the general outline, he has almost of necessity followed the path laid down by Mendelssohn, who was, we believe, the first to set to music any of the old Greek tragedies. It must be said, in Mr. Gadsby's praise, that he is no mere slavish imitator. Indeed, throughout the whole of his music we find nothing which can be called a reminiscence of either "Antigone" or "Œdipus." In some respects his treatment differs from that of his great predecessor: he has entirely discarded the effect of solo voices, and though he has thereby sacrificed some opportunities for musical contrast, it is probable that he has on the other hand conformed more nearly to the plan of the ancients. There is no reason to suppose that any part of the Greek choruses was sung either by a solo voice

or by a quartet.

"Alcestis" commences with a regularly-developed Overture, instead of the short instrumental prelude which Mendelssohn adopted in a similar situation. The introduction consists of the chief theme of one of the most important choruses (the "Fate" chorus, which occurs later in the work; this is followed by a più moto in A minor and major, well written, but less striking than some of the succeeding numbers. The first chorus, "Before this royal mansion all is still," is chiefly a dialogue between the first and second choir, in which the recitative style predominates. It leads immediately into No. 3, "In vain, our pious vows are vain," a fine and very effective chorus in C major, equally praiseworthy from a musical and dramatic point of view. No. 4, one of the longest pieces in the work, is partly chorus and partly melodrama. A point that strikes us, with regard to Mr. Gadsby's setting of the choral portions of the music, is the large predominance of unison passages. We think the composer is right in his treatment, because with a small choir the melody certainly comes out much more clearly against the orchestra than if the music were written in full harmony; and as the work was designed to be sung by a chorus of only forty, against at least an equal number of instrumentalists, unless great judgment were shown in the distribution of the parts, the voices would certainly be overpowered.

The melodramatic music, both in this and in subsequent numbers, is excellent. Here, perhaps, even more than in the choruses, it was difficult for Mr. Gadsby to avoid the Mendelssohn influence. We think, nevertheless, that he has completely succeeded in doing so. His accompaniments to the spoken dialogue are always appropriate and tasteful, and yet quite different in style from those in "Antigone." No. 5, the chorus in F major, "Immortal bliss be thine," is musically one of the most important numbers of the whole work, and is throughout full of interest. Here we find another innovation of Mr. Gadsby's—this time, we think, not an improvement. Instead of setting, as Mendelssohn mostly does, the first and second strophe and antistrophe to the same (or very nearly the same) music, Mr. Gadsby gives them entirely different subjects. This is, we cannot but think, a mistake, because the two portions of the text so exactly correspond to one another that there is at least a strong probability that they were intended to be sung to the same music. By adopting a different course, Mr. Gadsby obtains greater variety, but the unity of the piece suffers. The following chorus, "Yes, liberal house" (in A major), is one of the best specimens of its composer's style—thoroughly tuneful, and excellently written. Here Mr. Gadsby has for the second strophe repeated the theme of the first, greatly, in our opinion, to the advantage of the music. No. 8 is a movement consisting chiefly of melodrama, interspersed with short choral passages, mostly in unison. The following chorus (in D major), "My venturous foot delights," which sings of Fate, is another very good number, though, like No. 5, it suffers from the want of correspondence in the music of the strophes and antistrophes. The closing portion, in which the praises of the departed wife are sung, is of special merit. A short and effective finale concludes the work.

We have dwelt in such detail upon the music of "Alcestis" that a few words must suffice concerning the performance. This was on the whole excellent, especially as regards the music. The choruses were capitally rendered by the same choir (under the direction of the composer's father, Mr. W. Gadsby) which did such good service at the revivals of "Antigone" and "Œdipus;" while the orchestra, under Mr. Manns, was simply perfect. The cast of the play, which was satisfactory throughout, was as follows: Alcestis, Miss Emily Cross; Iole, Miss Emily Vining; Admetus, Mr. Arthur Matthison; Hercules, Mr. W. Rignold; Pheres, Mr. Edmund Leathes; Apollo, Mr. J. H. Barnes; Thanatos, Mr. Henry Moxon; Medon, Mr. Bruton Robins; and Chorus Speaker, Mr. W. Holman. Mr. Rignold's Hercules must be particularly mentioned as an admirable and effective piece of acting.

Mr. Gadsby may be warmly congratulated on a legitimate success in a by no means easy department of musical composition. The music is quite good enough to deserve

a second hearing.

### ROYAL ALBERT HALL CHORAL SOCIETY.

Mendelssohn's "Elijah" was performed by this Society on the 7th ult. in a manner which reflected the highest credit upon all concerned, the choruses being especially well rendered, and the principal vocalists—Mesdames Sinico, A. Sinclair, Arnim, and A. Sterling, Messrs. Pearson, Mellor, Christian, S. Smith, and Signor Foli—being highly successful in the solo parts. At the two performances of the "Messiah," on the 18th and 21st ult, with Mdlle. Titiens, Madame Trebelli-Bettini, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. W. H. Cummings, and Herr Behrens as principals, large audiences were assembled, and the execution of the work was thoroughly satisfactory, with one exception—the omission of the air "The trumpet shall sound." This extraordinary circumstance arose, we understand, from the refusal of Herr Behrens to sing the air unless transposed into Db, an impracticable request, as all musicians must know, when the obbligato is performed as Handel wrote it, on a trumpet, and not on a cornet-à-pistons. As the directors of the Albert Hall invariably engage a first-rate trumpet-player for this important part, it must have been vexing indeed to have their good intentions thus frustrated; and we may reasonably ask how it happened that, as Herr

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# ST. ANNE'S, SOHO.

THE first of four special Christmas Services was held on the evening of the 21st ult. at the above-named church. Through the praiseworthy efforts of Mr. Barnby, the musical arrangements have become a distinct feature at these services, and the church was well filled with a conthese services, and the church was well miled with a congregation the greater part of whom were eager to join their voices with those of the choir wherever such participation was solicited. The chief musical attraction was the "Christmas Oratorio" of John Sebastian Bach, a work which, more impressively than any other, conveys to the religious mind the glad tidings of "Peace on earth and goodwill towards men." The few choral portions of the Oratorio were extremely well rendered by the carefully-trained choir, and the airs and recitatives were delivered, on the part of individual members, with that true devotional feeling and total absence of self-assertion which is due to the religious character of the work and the intensely religious feelings of the mastermind which conceived it. At the conclusion of the Oratorio the "Hallelujah" Chorus from the "Messiah" was sung, the whole congregation joining, and for the first time in our life we felt this sublime inspiration of Handel's to jar upon our feelings; its introduction at this point seeming so thoroughly out of character with the preceding work. It is the Christ born which forms the great theme of rejoicing and contemplation in Bach's Oratorio, whereas it is the Christ triumphant, who has gained the victory over suffering and death, represented in the "Hallelujah" Chorus. Following immediately upon the final chorale of the Christmas Oratorio, with its reminiscences of the peaceful Pastoral Symphony preceding it, the chorus in question has the effect of a roof of sublime the chorus in question has the effect of a roof of sublime architecture being placed upon a humble cottage. Imagine for a moment the "Hallelujah" to follow directly upon the Pastoral Symphony in the "Messiah," and our meaning will be at once appreciated. Grateful as the public must feel towards Mr. Barnby for affording such excellent opportunities of hearing the music of John Sebastian Bach, we cannot but think this combination of two works, so distinct in their individuality and constitute the keys. distinct in their individuality and conception, to be decidedly unfortunate. The service was repeated on the 29th ult., and is announced for the 5th and 12th inst.

## ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

The orchestral concert of the students of this Institution, which was given at St. James's Hall on the 2nd ult., attracted an audience filling every portion of the room. The first part of Professor Macfarren's Oratorio "St John the Baptist," which commenced the programme, gave an opportunity to Miss Bolingbroke of displaying to the greatest advantage her fine voice and distinct enunciation as the Narrator, many of her recitatives eliciting the warmest marks of approbation from the audience. The music of St. Yohn the Baptist was entrusted to Mr. George, who sang carefully and steadily throughout. The choral portions of the work went extremely well, the fresh voices of the soprani especially being much admired; and so admirably was the beautiful chorus "This is my beloved Son" rendered that it was enthusiastically re-demanded. Two works by students were performed in the second part, the first a clever and effectively instrumented Overture, "The Bride of Abydos," by Mr. A. H. Jackson, and the second a "Magnificat," by Mr. Eaton Faning, which gained the Lucas prize medal at the last competition, and is unquestionably a composition of very considerable merit, the treatment of the choir in several parts evidencing a power which will no doubt ripen with experience. The solo part in this work was excellently sung by Miss Marie Duval. The pianists were Miss Isabel Thurgood, who played in a dashing manner the first movement of Rubinstein's Concerto in D minor; Miss Evans, who gave an

unaffected reading of the last two movements of Sterndale Bennett's Concerto in C minor; and Mr. Bampfylde, whose rendering of Mendelssohn's "Rondo Brillant" in B minor showed a real artistic feeling and the result of sound and legitimate training. Miss F. Thomas's clarionet obbligato to "Non più di fiori," well sung by Miss Marian Williams, also deserves much commendation. The other vocalists were Miss Leonora Braham, Miss Orridge—who sang the air "Fanciulle che il core" so well as to be unanimously recalled—and Mr. Charles Tinney. The concert was conducted by Mr. Walter Macfarren with his usual care and intelligence.

### BOROUGH OF HACKNEY CHORAL ASSOCIATION.

It seems strange that we should have to journey as far east as the Shoreditch Town Hall to hear Schubert's Mass in F for the first time in London; but when the members of the above Association engaged Mr. Ebenezer Prout as their Conductor, they could scarcely expect that he would be content to remain a passive agent in their hands; and the unexampled success of their first concert for the present season, on the 27th November, has fully proved that his counsels have been in the right direction. So excellent a rendering of a work which could scarcely have been familiar to many of the choral body reflected the highest credit, not only upon the Conductor, who must indeed have laboured hard in the task of preparation, but upon the singers, who, although we presume all amateurs, gave ample evidence both of the will and the power to grapple with the difficulties of their interesting task. The religious fervour with which the beautiful "Kyrie" was delivered produced a marked effect upon the auditors; and the "Gloria" with its many movements, including the *Trio* "Gratias agimus," went almost faultlessly throughout, the fugue "Cum sancto spiritu," which severely taxed the capabilities of the choir, being especially worthy of commendation. The "Credo," a lovely setting of the text, and appropriately subdued in the accompaniment, was sung most impressively, and the "Sanctus" (although to our mind the weakest portion of the Mass) was given with the utmost care, as if the executants had resolved to show their reverence for their work by bestowing equal attention upon every part of it. The "Benedictus," a canon for two sopranos and two tenors, remarkable for the variety of the accompaniment throughout, went well, and was warmly applauded, particularly by that section of the audience unaccustomed to listen to the more elaborate combinations of voices and instruments. The "Agnus Dei," a charmingly peaceful movement, leading to the "Dona nobis" in which, like Beethoven's Mass in C, the subject of the "Kyrie" is returned to—concluded the work, which had been listened to with extreme delight by an audience filling every part of the Hall. Every praise is due to the solo singers—Miss Marie Duval, Miss Geddes, Miss Pauline Featherby, Messrs. H. Guy, Goodwood, and Thurley Beale— Miss Duval especially distinguishing herself in the many soprano solos with which the composition abounds. The orchestra was extremely good; and the conducting of Mr. Prout, whilst devoid of any superabundant energy, was so calm and dignified as to inspire every person concerned in the interpretation of the Mass with the fullest confidence. We have but space to record that the miscellaneous second part was composed of such classical materials as to induce a belief that the new Conductor has resolved to indoctrinate those who have placed their confidence in him with the true principles of art.

THE Monday and Saturday Popular Concerts have continued to attract during the past month as numerous and appreciative audiences as ever. There has been but little absolute novelty in the programmes; but the works already established in favour with the frequenters of these concerts have been rendered to perfection. Amongst the pianists we may mention Mdlle. Mehlig, Miss Agnes Zimmermann, and Mr. Charles Hallé; and Madame Norman-Néruda, by her excellent leading of the most exacting quartets, has fully sustained her reputation as one

of the first classical violinists of the day. The series of concerts has now been brought to a close until after the Christmas vacation.

THE competition at the Royal Academy of Music for the Westmorland Scholarship and Potter Exhibition took place at the Institution on Monday the 18th ult., the examiners being Mr. F. R. Cox, Mr. W. Dorrell, Mr. M. Garcia, Mr. H. C. Lunn, Mr. Walter Macfarren, Mr. A. Randegger, Mr. Brinley Richards, Dr. Steggall, and the Principal, Professor Macfarren. The results were as follows: West-morland Scholarship (for which there were 19 candidates)— Miss Marian Williams, elected; Miss Annie Albu, highly commended. Potter Exhibition (12 candidates)-Miss Kate Steel, elected; Miss Margaret Bucknall, highly com-Rate Steel, elected; Miss Margaret Bucknall, highly commended. Miss Fanny Boxell, commended. The Balfe Scholarship (endowed from the proceeds of the Balfe Memorial Festival in July 1876, in memory of Michael William Balfe) was also competed for, the examiners being Mr. H. C Banister, Mr. M. Garcia, Mr. H. C. Lunn, Mr. Walter Macfarren, Mr. A. Randegger, and the Principal. There were five candidates, and the scholarship was awarded to Master William Sewell.

THE Leeds Triennial Musical Festival will take place in the Town Hall about the end of September next. The committee has for some time past been in active operation, and two or three new and important works are expected to be produced. As an indication of the probable pecuniary success of the Festival, it may be stated that in a few weeks a guarantee fund of over £8,000 was subscribed by a limited number of gentlemen. The fund is now to be thrown open to the general public for subscription, when a large addition to it is expected. Professor Macfarren is engaged in writing an Oratorio for the Festival, the subject being "Joseph," the Professor's promise to write for the committee having been secured shortly after the Festival in 1874, when his "St. John the Baptist" was performed. It may be mentioned as a singular coincidence that Sir Michael Costa, the Conductor in 1874, is reported to be writing an Oratorio on the same subject.

THE following correspondence will show that the indefatigable labours of Mr. Townshend Smith, conductor and hon. sec. of the Hereford Musical Festivals for so many years, have been appreciated and recognised as they deserve :-

"Dear Sir,—I undertake the agreeable office, in the name of the president and stewards of the late Hereford Musical Festival, of handing to you a purse of £80, contributed by the above-named gentlemen. We ask your acceptance of this, not that it will repay you for all the anxious cares of your conductorship, but in the hope that you may look upon it as a token that we have not been unmindful of your untiring energy and skill, now, as on former occasions, in directing the Festival to so eminently successful an issue.—I am, yours truly, "G. Townshend Smith, Esg." JOHN H. ARKWRIGHT, Chairman.

"G. Townshend Smith, Esq."

"To the Lord Bateman, President, J. H. Arkwright, Esq., Chairman, and the Stewards of the Hereford Musical Festival.

and the Stewards of the Hereford Musical Festival.

"The Close, Hereford, Nov. 30, 1876.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,—Accept my grateful thanks for the kind and liberal way in which you have shown your appreciation of my services; the good feeling evineed by the gift enhances its value. I have always laboured most earnestly to make the Hereford Festival creditable in a musical point of view, pleasant to those employed, and remunerative. I feel deeply obliged to the stewards, the members of my profession, and the press for all the welcome compliments which they have paid me: these alone would have been highly prized as evidences of esteem.—I have the honour to be, my Lords and Gentlemen, your obedient, faithful, and grateful servant,

"G. TOWNSHEND SMITH,

"Conductor and Hon. See, of twelve Hereford Festivals."

"Conductor and Hon. Sec. of twelve Hereford Festivals."

THE Schubert Society, under the conductorship of Herr Schuberth, gave its Eleventh Soirée Musicale on the 13th ult., at the Beethoven Rooms. Among the more prominent of the long list of vocalists who appeared we may mention the names of Madame L. Gage, Madame Rosetti, Madame Schuberth, Miss Alison Leigh, and Mr. Bishenden. Solos on the pianoforte were given by Miss McCarthy and Miss Albrecht. The programme was a long and varied one. Madame Gage received an encore for her rendering of "La Stella," by Mililotti, and Miss Alison Leigh displayed a most promising contralto voice. The accompaniments were played by Mr. Samson and Herr Schuberth.

At the Christmas General Meeting of the Royal Society of Musicians, Mr. W. H. Cummings was elected Honorary Treasurer, in place of the late Mr. G. F. Anderson.

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MR. W. S. HOYTE gave a concert at the Assembly Rooms, St. John's Wood, on the 5th ult., which was numerously attended. In all his pianoforte solos—which comprised Sterndale Bennett's Sonata "The Maid of Orleans," a Fantasia by Liszt, and a group of minor compositions by Chopin, Henselt, Silas, &c.—Mr. Hoyte was warmly applauded, and several times recalled to the plat-The programme also included three movements of Beethoven's Trio (Op. 97), and Mendelssohn's Trio in C minor, in which the concert-giver was ably assisted by Herr Wiener (violin) and Herr Daubert (violoncello). The vocalists were Madame Alice Barth, Miss Marion Severn, and Mr. Stedman, all of whom were highly successful; Mr. Stedman's singing of a new song by Berthold Tours, "I'll crown thee Queen," being especially admired, and Henry Leslie's graceful Trio "Memory" eliciting welldeserved marks of approbation.

On Advent Sunday, special musical services were held in Christ Church, Mayfair. In the morning Dr. Stainer's Anthem "Hosanna in the highest" was effectively rendered. At the evening service the usual Choir of the Church was augmented by Messrs. Barrett, De Lacey, Thornton, and Moss, of St. Paul's Cathedral, who kindly volunteered their services. The following music was sung: the Canticles to Parry's Service in D, and two Anthems, viz., "Who is this?" Dr. Arnold, and "O Saviour of the world," Sir John Goss. Tallis's Responses were used. The sermon in the morning was preached by the Vicar, and that in the evening by the Rev. Cosmo R. Gordon, D.D., Incumbent of Grosvenor Chapel. The musical portion of the services was under the direction of Mr. R. Stokoe, who presided at the organ.

THE annual concert for the benefit of the Orphanage of H.M. Customs was given in St. James's Hall on the 7th ult., under the direction of Mr. W. Phillips. The success, under the direction of Mr. W. Philips. The success, pecuniarily and artistically, was all that could be desired. Mdme. Edith Wynne, Miss Mary Davies, Mdlle. Enriquez, Miss Bolingbroke, Mr. W. H. Cummings, Mr. H. Guy, Signor Caravoglia, and Mr. Maybrick were the vocalists, and Miss McManus, a pupil of Sir Julius Benedict, the pianist. Sir Julius Benedict and Mr. Fountain Meen were the conductors.

A MUSICAL performance was given by the pupils of the London Society for Teaching the Blind at Upper Avenue Road, Regent's Park, on the 18th ult., conducted by Mr. Edwin Barnes, Professor of Music at the Society's Schools. An excellent selection of part-songs was well rendered, and organ and pianoforte solos from the works of Bach, Beethoven, Handel, and Mozart were played by the pupils in a manner which reflected the highest credit upon their

THE South Norwood Musical Society gave its second concert of the season on the 18th ult., and performed Mendelssohn's "As the hart pants" and the same composer's "Hear my prayer," together with a selection of secular music. Miss Jessie Royd sang the principal solos with much taste and effect, and Miss Bawtree contributed a new Christmas song by the Conductor and won a unanimous encore. The chorus-singing was very good, especially in "Hear my prayer." Mr. W. J. Westbrook, Mus. Bac., Cantab., conducted.

A competition for the appointment of soprano in the choir of South Place Chapel, Finsbury, took place on Monday, the 11th ult., when twenty-six candidates presented themselves. The choice of the committee fell upon Miss Kathleen Grant. The vacancy was caused by the resignation of Miss Marie Duval.

On Thursday evening the 14th ult. the first musical evening of the South London Musical Club was held at the Angell Town Institution, Brixton. This Society, established for the purpose of affording its members opportunities for the practice of high-class concerted vocal music, has been in existence for some years, but has recently been placed on a new footing, under the able direction of Mr. ety

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C. Stevens. The programme mainly consisted of quartets, glees, and choruses, interpreted by the members of the Club. The bass songs "I fear no foe," sung by Mr. Twiss, and "The Diver," by Mr. Wilton, were redemanded, and Mr. E. G. Richardson gave a good rendering of Molique's song "When the moon is brightly shining." Mr. C. Stevens accompanied.

On Thursday evening the 14th ult., at Holy Trinity Church, Paddington, a most effective Service was rendered in connection with the opening of the new organ, under the direction of Mr. Edwin Barnes, organist and director of the choir, who presided at the organ. The service used was Hopkins in F, and the anthem, "I have surely built thee an house," Boyce. The soli parts were sung by Master Pitts, Messrs. Birch, Frost, Stedman, Hanson, Stanley Smith, and Ralph Wilkinson. Mr. J. E. Street conducted. The sermon was preached by Canon Miller.

# REVIEWS.

BREITKOPF AND HÄRTEL, LEIPZIG.

Serenade (No. 3, A major), for Orchestra. By S.

Jadassohn. Op. 47.

HERR JADASSOHN, one of the professors at the Leipsic Conservatorium, and a pupil of the late Moritz Hauptmann, is one of the many German composers whose works have not yet become known in this country, though some of them enjoy considerable reputation on the Continent. In addition to numerous pianoforte pieces and transcriptions, he has written three Symphonies and three Serenades for orchestra, of which latter the third now lies before us. From this specimen of Herr Jadassohn's work, we should judge him to be an excellent musician, thoroughly master of all the technique of his art, possessing fluency of ideas, but of no absolute individuality of style—one, in short, who would occupy a more than respectable place in the second rank of composers, but to whom the gift of genius, in its highest sense, has been denied. A short account of the various movements of which the work consists will show upon what we ground our opinion.

The Serenade opens with an Introduction, Tempo di Marcia, in A major. The subjects of this movement are decidedly pleasing, though the style, especially in the harmonies, reminds us of Schumann, who seems to have exerted considerable influence over the mind of our composer. The introduction is in regular symphonic form, composer. The introduction is in regular symphonic form, but, owing to the complete change of tempo for the second subject, the unity of the whole is impaired, and to our mind the effect of the movement is "patchy." No. 2, "Cavatina and Intermezzo" in F major, is in our opinion the most successful part of the work. The Cavatina, in \( \frac{9}{8} \) time, is very melodious, and charmingly orchestrated, though here again are slight traces both of Schumann and Spohr; the Intermezzo is an extremely clever canon in the octave, carried through the entire movement of twelve pages with such skill as never to appear in the least dry or laboured. Herr Jadassohn may be heartily congratulated on this excellent specimen of his workmanship. The third number, a "Scherzo à Capriccio" in D minor, is a very spirited while the "Più Allegro" in the major (p. 80 of the score) begins like the introduction to the second act of "Tann-The Scherzo is developed at considerable length, and would doubtless be effective in performance. The Finale, in A major, is another very good piece, but again strongly suggestive of Schumann, especially of the first movement of his Symphony in C. Throughout the whole Serenade, the writing is highly finished, and the instrumentation admirable, often ingenious, and never too noisy; but the work has not sufficient originality to entitle it to be called a production of genius. Actual reminiscences are seldom to be found in it; but the indirect influence of Herr Jadassohn's predecessors is more or less apparent throughout. It must not be supposed that in saying this we intend

tion not of the highest order of genius were to be excluded from our programmes, the répertoire of concert-givers would indeed be limited.

### SCHLESINGER, BERLIN.

Oberon. Romantische Oper, in drei Acten. Englischer-Original Text von J. R. Planché. Deutsch von Th. Hell; in musik gesetzt von Carl Maria von Weber. - Partitur.

THE full score of "Oberon"-never before printed-is now, thanks to the spirited Berlin publisher, before us, and issued in a form which cannot fail to gratify the most enthusiastic lovers of the composer's works. circumstance of the Opera having been originally produced in this country will sufficiently account for the fact, it seems almost incredible that in the land of the composer's birth, whilst the printed score of "Der Freischütz" has been for so many years available, "Oberon" could only be performed from manuscript copies. As it is just possible that, in consequence of the difficulty of obtaining a score, the charming music of Weber's latest Opera may have been comparatively but rarely heard, we have much pleasure in drawing attention to its publication, and sincerely hope that it may have the effect of bringing the work more prominently before the public, both in England and Germany.

# Novello, Ewer & Co.

Eighteen Two-part Songs; with Pianoforte accompaniment. Composed by Anton Rubinstein. Op. 48 and 67. The English version by Natalia Macfarren.

IF Herr Rubinstein's marvellous executive powers occasionally tempt him to think more of his fingers than of his music in writing for the pianoforte, he makes ample amends for this failing in his vocal compositions, where, unfettered by any distracting influences, he strives only to give the most eloquent expression to the words. could name many of the songs of this composer which possess an indescribable charm, although so unpretentious as to make us wonder that they can be the production of one who in his Pianoforte Concertos gives us passages bristling with such difficulties as to appal even the most agile performer. The eighteen Two-part Songs now before us are remarkable for purity of melody and simplicity of construction, some indeed being so unambitious and quiet, both in the voice-part and accompaniment, as scarcely to win their way to our highest favour on a single hearing. Others strike us at first, by their excessive originality of treatment, as being the carefully finished cabinet pictures of an artist who, even in these comparatively trifling works, sufficiently shows us that he dares to think for himself. From this collection of vocal pieces it would of course be impossible to do more than point out a few which strike us as being of exceptional merit; but as we have already expressed our opinion of their general worth, it will of course be understood that we merely indicate a preference which equally ardent admirers of the work might dispute. No. 1, "The Angel," a lovely theme, with a placid triplet accompaniment throughout, should appeal powerfully to those who desire really religious music instead of music to religious words. The voice parts are extremely easy, and the whole song a gem. No. 3, "The Homestead," most appropriately expresses the feeling of the poetry, and contains some beautiful figures in the accompaniment. No. 5 "The Wanderer's Night Song," beginning dreamily with the dominant rising four octaves, in the pianoforte part, achieves much by simple means, and will no doubt become a favourite with vocalists. No. 8, "The Cloud," commencing in D minor, and changing to the tonic major, on the words "Refresh'd are the pastures," has a flowing melody, in 9-8 rhythm, carefully and effectively harmonised. No. 9, "The Happy Birds," has just enough of the "trillo" in the accompaniment to identify it with the subject, and the tuneful theme to which the words are wedded never soars too high for the moderate compass of the average vocalist. No. 11, "Twilight," curiously enough, commences either to condemn or depreciate the work: if every composi- precisely like No. 5, with the dominant rising in octaves,

and in the same key. The song, however, is totally unlike its companion, and is exceedingly effective. No. 12, "Autumn sadness," begins with twenty bars entirely unaccompanied, the pianoforte then stealing in with an elegant figure against the first voice-part. This is one of the most expressive and melodious songs in the book. No. 13, "The Song of the Summer Birds," has a most attractive subject, and is charmingly accompanied throughout; the conversational bits between the two voices being also an interesting feature in the little composition. No. 14, "In the Wood," beginning with a chromatic descending passage, on a dominant pedal, for the pianoforte, starts afterwards most effectively with the two voices accompanied only by the right hand; the left hand, during the opening phrase, commencing every alternate bar with an arpeggio. There are many points in this composition which cannot be too highly praised; but the absence of any pedantic display is as obvious in this as in every song throughout the book. No. 17, "Rest after Storm," has a quiet melody, with an agitated semiquaver accompaniment. This song is full of dramatic feeling, the dying off of the voices on the dominant, to the words "Rest thee," being especially worthy of notice. No. 18, "The Lotos flower." is a quiet and effective colouring of the words, a syncopated figure in the accompaniment for the left hand giving much character to the subject. In the translation of the German poetry, Mdme. Macfarren has been especially careful to reproduce the feeling of the composer in setting the original text, by using equivalent words wherever possible; and the manner in which she has performed her difficult task is deserving of high commendation. To those who admire the two-part songs of Mendelssohn, a volume so thoroughly in the spirit of these beautiful compositions, and yet so instinct with that individuality which characterises all Rubinstein's works, should be warmly welcomed, and we have little doubt that the book will speedily make its way to the popularity it deserves.

Legende, pour le Piano. Impromptu-Caprice, pour le Piano. Composée par Oliver A. King.

Five pieces for the Pianoforte.

Composed by A. C. Mackenzie, Op. 13.

A LIMITED number of those into whose hands Mr. King's Legende and Impromptu-Caprice may fall are certain to regard them not only for their own sake, but for the measure in which they excite expectation of good things to come from the same source. There can be no doubt of the fact that the present is an anxious time in the history of English music. A generation of native composers is passing away, which in no mean degree has sustained the repute of our country; and as one and another join the majority, we look around for their successors, not always with confidence in our ability to find them. The most sanguine amongst us cannot regard the prospects of English art in the next generation without foreboding. From Dan to Beersheba the land, if not wholly barren, gives no evidence of coming plenty. Music, it is true, augments its votaries by thou-sands from year to year. Never did such an army of men and women court the favour of publishers as now, and never did such a flood of new works issue from the press. But, unhappily, the votaries are simple worshippers, not prophets and apostles of art: the army is made up of rank and file, led only by corporals and sergeants, and the new works are like ripplets which subside and are forgotten as the breeze passes. Under circumstances like these every fresh man who starts up with proof of ability becomes a centre of eager who starts up with proof of ability becomes a centre of eager and, it may be, exaggerated hopes. Our wish is father to the thought that he may stand a Saul among his fellows, nor can disappointment check the ardour with which we are prepared to welcome his successor. This is why all who know how much promise centres in the composer of the two works now before us turn to them with something like arises. thing like anxiety. Mr. King—he will not be offended if we regard him as still a lad—early attracted attention by the manifest way in which his destiny as a musician was marked out, nor has his boyish talent ceased to develope in a manner equally marked, during the time of the studies

he is still carrying on at the Leipsic Conservatory. ultimate rank in art it would be imprudent to forecast, seeing, as all who have eyes must see, how many elements more uncertain than talent are factors in the problem. But from a musical point of view, the youth who can produce such music as we have here, ought now to fix, and ultimately to justify, the regards of his countrymen. A glance at the Legende is sufficient to prove this. Without laying stress upon the fact—surprising, nevertheless, in our day-that Mr. King has written his charming Andantino in an orthodox style, we may point out the masterful treatment the subject receives from first to last. Not only is the music adapted to the fullest resources of the pianoforte within its scope, but its interest is increased and its beauty enhanced by devices which are many and ingenious without being strained and embarrassing. In this respect it reminds us of Schumann, whose gracefulness of thought as well as elaboration of method is also reflected. The Legende is by no means easy to play, but it is better worth the trouble of mastering than many a more ambitious creation signed by a well-known name. The Impromptu opens with an Allegro agitato in B flat minor of fairy-like lightness and grace. This constitutes the body of the work; but even as grace. This constitutes the body of the work, but of the Schubert has interjected many of his most serious and tender thoughts into music of equal levity, so here the quick movement is broken by a Larghetto, in the tonic major, upon which the player is likely to linger with fond-The whole piece is a work of art in its way, and to whatever distinction Mr. King may attain in days to come, he will see no reason for shame in his youthful effort.

Mr Mackenzie's "Five Pieces" must by no means be confounded with the general run of modern effusions for the pianoforte. They are the work of a man who, before he took pen in hand, found something to say, and then said it in a style which, if not his own in the fullest degree, possesses much of the charm of novelty. The composer has evidently been a diligent student in the school of Schumann, whose influence we imagine ourselves able to detect both in his thoughts and mode of expression. Here, however, is not the smallest cause for blame. To say nothing of the fact that we get a change from the abounding mannerisms of Mendelssohn, we find a deeper poetry and fuller, richer utterance than are common. Mr. Mackenzie writes with a free hand, and here and there occur points to which adherents of the "prunes and prism" school would take exception. There is a purpose, however, in all he does, and the result, as a rule, vindicates the means adopted to secure it. But the leading features in these little pieces are an ingenious fancy and much power of characterisation. A good deal of music is elegantly made and pleasant to hear while destitute of all power to impress. Of such is not the music before us. It has been thought out by a mind able to think, and has an intention which the composer contrives to reveal with all needful clearness. That the pieces are, neither in this respect nor in any other, of equal merit, may at once be granted, but all leave upon the hearer's mind an impression that, while the composer is not "talking for talking's sake," he has the faculties of speech which are necessary to justify him in talking at all.

The Church Service, set to Music in the key of F. By Edward Hodges, Mus. Doe, Edited and published under the supervision of his daughter, Faustina H. Hodges,

Wit are not sure that Miss Hodges has added to her own reputation as a musician of taste by editing the above Service of her father's. It is true the work is as free from grammatical errors as we should expect from a Mus. Doc., it being quite possible to defend the double false relation between treble and tenor, and tenor and bass, in the eighth bar of page 8. But there is a want of breadth and solidity about the whole work, and the composer has striven to maintain the musical unity of his production at the expense of the words, by setting strongly contrasted sentences to music identically the same. The opening subject of the "Te Deum" is evidently intended to be the main feature of the whole work. It serves as the commencement of the "Jubilate," "Gloria in excelsis," "Magnificat," and "Nunc Dimittis." In the dominant it

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tentic place In a would consi the a them room and a spons prefe the 1 ticula caref imita effect that ! is set to the words "To thee all angels cry aloud," and to the latter half of the three Glorias: and twice more it reappears in the "Te Deum"—once in the sub-dominant, as a song of triumph at the words "Thou sittest at the right hand of God," and again in the mediant, associated with the words of supplication "Make them to be numbered with Thy saints." The "Ter Sanctus" is very properly set to the music which accompanies the same theme in the "Te Deum;" but we hardly see why it should serve also for the commencement of the three Glorias. From a purely musical point of view, neither of the subjects of which we have spoken is sufficiently original to bear such constant repetition.

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The voice parts are, on the whole, written smoothly, but few choirs will be found to contain trebles possessing a compass of two octaves and a tone. It is a misfortune that no indication whatever is given of the intended time of the several numbers; but if the "Te Deum" be taken at the most moderate pace which the genius of the composition suggests, it is difficult to imagine how any choir could articulate the rapid utterance of the words "Thou art the King of Glory," still less the following verse, where the trebles have to reiterate a high F sharp. These verses, moreover, follow the preceding by a very abrupt transition, which would render their attack the more difficult.

There is, nevertheless, much in this Service that is melodious: some parts are almost striking. It can hardly advance the standard of cathedral music; but to those who regard Jackson in F as an ideal Service it will be welcome.

It is quite within the grasp of parish choirs, and the only difficulty the accompaniment presents is one which the most accomplished organist is no more able to overcome than the veriest tyro, as it involves the employment of a B flat, which is below the compass of the instrument. Perhaps the best parts of the work are the "Gloria in excelsis" and the "Evening Service." The latter would doubtless become popular with country choirs.

The New Israelitish Anthem—Lost Israel Identified. By W. Thackwray.

We can perhaps best give our readers an idea of this peculiar work by saying that on the title-page it is described as "being a brief sketch in verse of certain statements set forth in the work entitled 'Forty-seven Identifications of the British Nation with the Lost House of Israel,' by Mr. Edward Hine, to whom this Anthem is, by permission, respectfully inscribed by the composer." The music is worthy of the subject; and we strongly advise Mr. Thackwray for his next effort to versify and compose either Paley's "Evidences" or Butler's "Analogy," both of which are, we firmly believe, quite as well adapted for musical illustration as Mr. Hine's book.

Lightly, gently ply the oar. Part-Song for a double Chorus. Words by H. T. Bywater.

Soldier rest. Four-part Song. Words by Sir Walter Scott.

Composed by H. T. Bywater.

The "Part-song for a double Chorus" is not so pretentious as the title-page might lead us to expect, for in no place are the two choirs united, save in the final chord. In a drawing-room the effect of this little composition would be good, the intention being that the choir of rowers, consisting of Alto, two Tenors, and Bass, should be before the audience, and that of the friends on shore welcoming them home, consisting of mixed voices, in an adjoining room. The air "Home, sweet home" is well woven in, and a good point is gained near the conclusion by the responses of the rowers to those assembled on shore. The voice parts are generally well written; but we should much prefer, in the first bar of the "Allegretto," on page 6, D for the last bass note, the descent of the A being to us particularly unpleasant. The second song is a quiet melody, carefully accompanied, and containing some fair points of imitation, the "Coda," with the final plagal cadence, effectively expressing the words. As the composer tells us that it is to be "sung without accompaniement in the key

of D flat," we do not understand why it is published in C. Are the singers to suppose that they are singing it in C, and the conductor secretly to start them in D flat?

### LAMBORN COCK.

Ask me no more. Song, for Soprano or Contralto. Written by Alfred Tennyson. Composed by Herbert S. Oakeley.

The words of the song before us, from Tennyson's "Princess," are excellently adapted for musical treatment, and the Edinburgh Professor (who published this composition before he had won more than a professional title to his name) has given us a highly effective setting of the poetry, if anything perhaps slightly erring on the side of an undue display of harmony. The theme, commencing in C minor, and richly accompanied, has a burst in the tonic major which reminds us too much of many modern songs, but will no doubt be regarded by vocalists, who are unmoved by such considerations, as an extremely telling point. There is an air of refinement and an evidence of artistic power throughout the song which must commend it to the notice of every intelligent listener; and although, as we have said, somewhat over elaborated, it will be universally recognised as the conscientious work of a highly accomplished musician.

## ASHDOWN AND PARRY.

Bourrée, in F major, for the Pianoforte. Le Trianon (Gavotte), for the Pianoforte. Composed by J. Theodore Trekell.

MR. TREKELL has thoroughly caught the spirit both of the Bourrée and Gavotte. The themes of the first, in F major and D minor, are extremely melodious, and the harmonies quite in sympathy with those of the composers who have left us so many specimens of this old dance tune. "Le Trianon," too, is a genuine Gavotte, which cannot fail to become popular with players and listeners.

### WEEKES AND CO.

Masonic Music, consisting of an Anthem, Sanctus, Odes, Marches, &c., appropriate for the Ceremonies in Craftworking, &c. By Frederick C. Atkinson, Mus. Bac.,

Not being ourselves Masons, we are unable to say how far the contents of this little work are adapted to fulfil the object at which they aim, but must confine ourselves to their musical aspect. The book contains, first, an Opening March, then an Anthem in three movements, "Behold, how good and joyful," a Sanctus, Procession Music, four Odes, and a Closing March. Mr. Atkinson has evidently had to write under considerable restrictions, but, so far as we are in a position to judge, he has been very successful. His ideas are always pleasing, and the treatment shows the hand of a practised musician, the consecutive octaves on page 14 between first tenor and bass being evidently a mere slip of the pen. The whole of the vocal music is, of course, for male voices. The Anthem is very good, though we care less for the opening baritone solo than for the two numbers which follow. The Odes are, excepting the last, "Hail, Masonry Divine!" mere partsongs, but are effectively written; while the last is for tenor solo and unison chorus, with piano accompaniment, and with a large mass of voices would be very telling. The instrumental parts of the music we also like. Mr. Atkinson has produced a little manual which we should think would be very acceptable at Masonic meetings where music forms a part of the ceremonial.

Longing. Song. Words by "Anon."
The Return. Song. Words by "Anon."
Music by E. Newbatt.

BOTH these songs appear to have been originally published at Port Elizabeth, but we have given the name of the London agent. If the melody of the first compo-

sition sounds somewhat sickly, it must be remembered that the words are in sympathy with it. Nothing can be said, in a musical point of view, against either the theme of the song or its accompaniment; but composers must bear in mind that the "weariness" they are constantly expressing in their ballads is very apt to be communicated to the auditors. We prefer the next song, "The Return," although it is merely a pretty waltz, with a somewhat common-place prayer at the conclusion of each verse, which latter Mr. Newbatt tells us "may be sung as a four-part chorus." With a drawing-room audience the song will be tolerably certain to please, more especially if the listeners have not yet discovered what we cannot but term the "trick" of these semi-religious ballads.

[In the review upon Lampadius's life of Mendelssohn, which appeared in our last number, we stated that the work had, until now, been " quite unknown in this country." Work had, until now, been quite unknown in this country. The Musical World, however, reminds us that the biography was published in that journal in 1854, translated by Mr. J. V. Bridgeman. It is scarcely perhaps necessary to say that what we intended to convey to our readers was the fact that the work had not been translated and published by an English bookseller, like the many other musical biographies which have lately appeared. We are nevertheless glad, on the authority of our contemporary, to retract our assertion that until now it was "quite unknown in this country."-THE WRITER OF THE NOTICE.]

### FOREIGN NOTES.

As was to have been expected, the great "national deed," as it is called, which has been accomplished at Bayreuth continues to agitate the minds of German musicians and amateurs. The storm of journalistic controversy raised under the immediate influence of the Nibelungen performances is, however, gradually subsiding now. Nor is this to be regretted. It has raged violently enough for months, making it positively unsafe for a reader not possessed of a robust nervous organisation to open one of the more energetic periodicals, lest he should find himself addressed in anything but flattering terms if his artistic creed happened to be at variance with the opinions expressed by the respective writers concerning the dominant question of the day. Meanwhile the controversy is passing into its second stage, and is being carried on in the shape of pamphlets, which will no doubt in a short time swell the already sufficiently voluminous Wagner-literature in Germany. But, after all, the chief questions involved are fortunately no longer those of an elaborate theory, the general truth of which will hardly any more be seriously questioned, but of principles the practical value of which will henceforth have to be demonstrated on the stage only. In addressing the audience, at the conclusion of the first series of performances at Bayreuth, the master, with characteristic arrogance, had spoken these words: "You have seen what we can do; it is for you to do the rest. If only you will, you have now an art." This curt utterance on the part of a man who—by the aid of the very audience he addressed-had just met with a triumph greater than any ever accorded to genius during lifetime, could not fail to produce a chilling effect even upon the most ardent among his admirers. It has alarmed a certain timid portion among critics of the old school, who hold that, even before the appearance of the author of the Nibelungen Tetralogy, something respectable had been done for the music-drama in the country of Gluck, Mozart, and Weber. There is no need, however, to share the dismal forebodings on the part of those in whose opinion the Wagner movement is under-mining the very foundations of true art. Whatever may be said to the contrary, the poet-composer of the Tetralogy has founded his colossal art-work upon the accumulated inheritance of a great past. If the work thus constructed be a fallacy, past genius will certainly reassert itself with renewed vitality in the future, after the present increasing bias in its favour has passed away. Meanwhile the Germans may congratulate themselves upon the fact that genius of a very high order is still at work amongst them,

concentrating his marvellous energies upon the approxima-tion to his own artistic ideal, and whose works, what-ever our opinion of them as a whole, are at least full of valuable suggestions, which will, in the end, be sure to prove an immense benefit to the further development of the dramatic art in music.

It is intended, on the part of enthusiastic admirers of Herr Wagner, to make the Bayreuth Theatre the property of the nation. Herr Hahn, the energetic advocate of the "party of progress" in musical matters, and editor of the journal *Tonkunst*, has just opened a subscription for the purpose of raising the necessary funds, and with a view also of defraying the expense of annual standard per-formances of musical stage works at that building. It is now positively settled that a repetition of the performances of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" will take place during the

present year.

Herr Wagner has been much feted at Rome, whither he had gone in search of rest after his late fatigue. Among other honours of which he was the recipient, the Royal Academia di Sa. Cecilia has nominated him Socio Illustre, being the highest dignity conferred by that institution.

While the principles which at present predominate in the management of our own operatic establishments would seem to exclude altogether that educational element which the performance of the masterpieces of a bygone period cannot fail to supply, our German neighbours, whose art institutions are for the greater part subsidised by the Government, are certainly more fortunate in this respect. Thus, at the Royal Opera at Berlin two works of Gluck, "Armida" and "Iphigenia in Tauris," have recently been performed within a week, and, according to the Allgemeine Deutsche Musik-Zeitung, in a manner worthy of the father of the modern music-drama. There can be no question that such revivals of standard works by older masters are of the highest importance at the present day, when the fundamental principles upon which Opera should be constructed are being discussed on all sides. At the same establishment Schumann's opera "Genoveva" is in course

of preparation.
Rubinstein's "Die Maccabäer," which opera has been repeatedly performed at Berlin and Munich, was to have been given for the first time on the 13th ult. at the Russian

capital.

Madame Schumann has lately made her appearance at a concert at Barmen, before an enthusiastic audience. Special homage was rendered to the great artist on the occasion, the pianoforte on which she played being adorned with flowers and evergreens.

Some time ago we had occasion to mention in these columns the performance at Berlin, before a select circle of connoisseurs, of an opera by J. H. Franz (Count Hochberg), entitled "Der Wärwolf." Some highly-characteristic songs, by the same composer, formed part of a recent concert at the Prussian capital. A growing popularity is predicted for the productions of this gifted amateur.

At Leipsic the Subscription Concerts of the Gewandhaus continue their standard performances of classical music, while at the same time duly regarding the claims to obtain a hearing on the part of the works of contemporary composers. Among the novelties lately introduced may be mentioned a Symphony (No. 3) by Jadassohn, and a vocal and instrumental work by H. Hofmann, entitled "Das Märchen von der schönen Melusine." Madame Schumann, M. L. Brassin, Herr Wieniawsky, and Herr Joachim have successively made their appearance: the latter was to have performed a Ms. Concerto by Herr Reinecke at the eleventh concert on the 21st ult.

Opera, in one form or another, has been in decided demand at Paris during the past month, and the various institutions dedicated to that species of dramatic performance have been nightly filled to overflowing. "Robert le Diable," "Aïda," "Fille du Regiment," "Oberon," have all proved alike attractive to the music-loving public. At the same time the new opera by Victor Massé, "Paul et Virginie," is maintaining the popularity it so quickly attained since its first performance at the *Théatre Lyrique* in November last. There has been a revival, too, at the *Théatre Lyrique* of a very interesting little work by Hérold,

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an early production of his genius: the contitled is entitled "Les Troqueurs," and its performance was evidently much appreciated by the audience.

The coors of the Conservators having reopened at the beginning of last month, to admit the public to its annual performances of high-class music, the concert season of 1876-77 may be said to have definitely commenced at Paris. The President of the Republic was present at the first concert, which was inaugurated with the "Heroica" of Beethoven. At the same time, the performances, chiefly of classical music, at the Concerts Populaires are continuing to do excellent work in the interests of true art. It is a curious fact, however, that whereas the works of Gluck, Mozart, Beethoven, and even Weber, invariably meet with the fullest appreciation of the audience at these concerts, the modern German school seems, at present, to have but a poor chance of success. We have lately heard of the noisy demonstrations of dissent which the performance of Wagnerian music produced at the same institution. The works of Joachim Raff, too, seem to be equally powerless in attracting the attention of French amateurs, in spite of the determined perseverance of the conductor, M. Pasdeloup, whose very name—the French equivalent of the German "Wolfgang"—is, in consequence, being suspected of German origin! Thus, according to Le Ménestrel, Raff's charming Symphony "In the Forest," which has been repeatedly performed at the Populaires, has made little or no progress in the favour of the multihas made little or no progress in the favour of the publis.
On the other hand, a pamphlet entitled "Richard Wagner et les Parisiens," recently published at the French capital. is just now being eagerly read. It need hardly be added that its tendency is not favourable to the German operation reformer; nor does M. Pasdeloup escape some smart attacks directed against his unpatriotic impartiality in having produced works of that representative of modern Germany at his concerts. Setting aside the artistic merits or demerits of the question, it certainly seems somewhat paradoxical that, under the device of "Popular Concerts," music should be forced upon the Parisian people which

A manuscript Mass by M. Gounod was performed at the Church of St. Eustache on St. Cecilia's day, under the direction of the composer. According to the Revue de la Musique, this new work of the composer of "Faust" will sustain, though not increase, his reputation. "Whence the unproductivity," the same paper asks, "which has marked our great composer's career of late? Can it be that his genius no longer responds to his call so readily as it was wont to do?" The conclusion is that these are only signs of a momentary fatigue, and that before long the favourite national composer will, with renewed energy, resume his further progress in art. It is said that M. Gounod has agreed to write an Opera for the forthcoming

International Exhibition at Paris, the libretto of which will be from the pen of M. Sardou.

The publication is shortly to be expected of some 300 letters written by Chopin during his sojourn at Paris, addressed to friends and members of his family. Considering the intimate relations which existed between Chopin and the musical and literary society of the France of some thirty years ago, these letters promise to be of exceptional interest to the student of the art-history of that period. The publication is in the hands of Franz Ries of period. Dresden.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

CERTAIN DISCREPANCIES IN THE VARIOUS EDITIONS OF MENDELSSOHN'S "LIEDER.'

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,-In the various editions of Mendelssohn's "Lieder ohne Worte "already published, cheap and dear, 4to. and 8vo., are to be found many discrepancies, which, if not corrected ere long, will lead to much misapprehension. At the present time there must be yet those amongst us who have heard the great maestro himself interpret these "Lieder," and who therefore must be able to give us a

competent opinion on the subject; but in future timessay, at the distance of a century—these various editions, though having been published during a period embracing 30 or 40 years, will appear as almost contemporaneous, and may occasion serious doubts as to the correct reading. It is with the object of getting yourself or some of your correspondents to ventilate this question, and thus probably arrive at the truth, that I now venture to trouble you with this communication. In making the collation of the various editions I have always endeavoured to obtain the earliest copies available, and in one case (Bk. 2 of the "Lieder") I have met with what appears to be the earliest English edition, entitled "Six Melodies (without words), Op. 30," published by the late firm of Mori and Lavenu. It will be seen by comparing the corresponding bars of the old and new editions that the variations in some cases

are very considerable; so much so that they could not have been the result of accident, misprinting, or imperfect correction of the proofs, but have been acts of deliberate and intentional alteration. If this be so, we naturally inquire, Who has ventured on so reprehensible a pro-ceeding? It could not have been the author himself, for in no case are the substitutions improvements; indeed, in those of Nos. 11 and 20 the alterations are quite commonplace, which Mendelssohn, as he tells us in his letters, abhorred. The editions that have been collated are those of J. A. Novello, Dean Street, Soho; Ewer and Co., Newgate Street; Mori and Lavenu; Benedict; W. S. Bennett (old); also that of Hallé, and the 8vo. of Davison, with those of the foreign 4to. and 8vo. of Novello and Co., and those of Sullivan, Litolff, and the 8vo. of Pauer (new).

No. 5 at bar 40 has an A natural substituted for an A sharp in the new editions-this may or may not be the

correct reading.

No. 8 has at bars 22, 55, 57 three D naturals omitted in the bass, and at bars 29, 30, 63—7 the octaves in the bass are also left out.

No. 10. What shall be said of the mutilation of this lovely Lied? In the first place, at bar 61, six whole bars have been ruthlessly torn out; and at the 17th bar from the end one whole bar has been as ruthlessly interpolated, thereby making a commonplace cadence in B minor, and utterly destroying the vague, dreamy wandering characteristic of the whole composition. At bars 102 and 106 four semiquavers have been omitted in the stave for the right hand. Moreover, at about the 27th bar from the end the whole movement of the notes for the right hand for ten bars has been altered, as may be seen in the accompanying example. Further, at bar 96 a D sharp has been inserted in Pauer's 8vo. edition.

No. 11 has at bars 7 and 47 (the latter 11 bars from the end) been clumsily dealt with by some bungler; for after the accompaniment has been running for forty-six bars in single notes, at the 47th bar double notes appear in the bass very clumsily, and after three quavers disappear similarly; further, the cadence in the 48th bar has been transposed, E appearing in the upper part instead of F,

and vice versa.

No. 12. At bar 13 the dotted minim of the upper part has been changed to two dotted crotchets. E sharp and

G sharp-no improvement.

No. 20. At bar 5 some editions make the fourth quaver in the left hand flat (Halle's, for example), but the older ones have always D natural the first time; but on the recurrence of the same phrase eight bars further on, the composer himself has introduced the D flat. There cannot be a doubt but that the older editions have the correct reading, and that the bars 5-6 and 53-54 should have D natural for the fourth quaver in the left hand; and I am more confirmed in this opinion by having heard on May 29th Herr Rubinstein play at his recital this very Lied according to the old editions.

In conclusion, I would like to know why some of the titles have been altered? Who caused six bars of No. 10 to be left out and one added? Ought not the original manuscripts to be consulted before we have any more "editions"? Having been a student of this composer's works for the last forty years, I can safely aver that I consider the older editions the most in accordance with the author's intentions, and that if "editing" necessitates the alteration of a composer's ideas, the less we have of it the better.—Yours very truly,
Salisbury, Nov. 4, 1876.

### THE OLD EDITIONS.

Also those of Benedict, W. S. Bennett, C. Hallé, and Davison. 8vo.







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N.B.—The old editions are those of J. A. Novello, Ewer and Co., Mori and Lavenu, &c.

# THE NEW EDITIONS.

8vo. and 4to. Novello and Co. (Foreign), and those of Sullivan, Litolff, Pauer, 8vo.







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MUSIC AT THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES,"

-Among the many European reviews and letters on the Philadelphia Exhibition, none has given to the subject of music that criticism which many Americans feared and others desired. The truth is, music as a fine art was not considered at any time previous to or during the period of exhibition. It was used as a means of attraction on the opening and closing days, on the grounds, and on the 4th July in a general celebration in the yard of the Hall of Independence. On each of these occasions it was placed in the charge of foreigners. To this no objection has been raised, only that, in connection with other incidents, no opportunity has been afforded to show the growth and

culture of the art in America during the past century. In the Exhibition itself music had no status whatever. Al the other arts had. This is the sore point with musicians—

amateurs as well as professors.

Propositions were made to the Centennial authorities by men competent, whether as to capital or working qualities, to properly place the art before the public without any risk of failure or loss; newspaper articles were written, and other influences brought to bear, but all in vain. Music was ignored as a fine art, and visitors from abroad could only judge of us by what they heard on the occasions referred to. We have many shortcomings in music to deplore, but we feel that, bad as we are, we were made to appear by this neglect worse than is the reality. In fact, the nakedness of the land was exposed to our discredit.

The great choral associations of the large cities had no hearing. Some military bands were engaged to play in the open air, but none appeared for the advertised competitive trial, whether from want of confidence in their own ability or from distrust of the judgment of the jurors does not appear.

No prizes were offered for choral singing or for native compositions. No American composer was heard save Mr. Buck in his Cantata and Mr. Paine in his Choral, but 5,000 dollars was paid to Richard Wagner for a March which is condemned on all sides, whether in Europe or America. America is not without representatives of the noble army of martyrs who have rashly dared to explore the sublime mysteries of the art and science of composition; but native composers, being discriminated against by a most iniquitous copyright law, cannot reach a market, which is wholly in the hands of publishers and sellers, and thus are without a hearing and without a name. Hence the greater need of all the assistance and fostering care possible at the

hands of the Centennial authorities.

But materialism prevailed, and the Exhibition became a success; only, however, through the immense and un-acknowledged labours of the American press, notably of the local papers, and sensational shows and fireworks.

It is and has been a regret in musical circles that no encouragement was given to the friends of the art to present such performances as would have indicated its growth and culture since the nation's birth. So flagrant has been the neglect and so important the occasion, that it has been thought proper to seek a record in a European periodical of established position which is identified with the interests and welfare of the art. AMERICUS.

Philadelphia, December 5, 1876.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

\*s\* Notices of concerts, and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence; otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance.

Our correspondents will greatly oblige by writing all names as clearly as possible, as we cannot be responsible for any mistakes that may

Correspondents are informed that their names and addresses must accompany all communications.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Notice is sent to all Subscribers whose payment (in advance) is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscription is not renewed. We again remind those who are disappointed in obtaining back numbers that, although the music pages are always stereotyped, only a sufficient quantity of the rest of the paper is printed to supply the current sale.

Joseph Selby.—We are not aware of the publication of any such list as our correspondent mentions.

as our correspondent mentions.

W. MUIR.—The tune sung to the Hymn "Adeste Fideles" was composed by Reading in 1680. Vincent Novello says that John Reading was a pupil of Dr. Blow (the master of Purcell), and was first employed at Lincoln Cathedral. The piece mentioned obtained its name of "The Portuguese Hymn" from the circumstance of the Duke of Leeds having heard it first herformed at the Portuguese Chaple; and, supposing it to be peculiar to the service in Portugal, he introduced it at the Ancient Concerts, of which he was a Director, under the title of "The Portuguese Hymn." It is, however, by no means confined to the service in Portugal, being the regular Christmas Hymn, "Adeste Fideles," that is sung in every Catholic Chapel throughout England.

# BRIEF SUMMARY OF COUNTRY NEWS.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed in this Summary, as all the notices are either collated from the local papers, or supplied to us by correspondents.

ACTON, MIDDLESEX.—The new organ built by Messrs. Walker and 'Sons for S. Mary's Parish Church was opened on the 29th November, when full choral service was held. The service was intoned by the Rev. C. Musgrave Harvey. The Magnificat and Nunc dimittis were sung to Parry's Service in D, and the Anthem, 'O how amiable,' Barrbby, was well sung by the choir, which consisted of about 80 voices. The organ, which is not yet complete, has been built at a cost of about 4780, and a further estimate of 4400 is sent in to finish what will be one of the finest instruments in the neighbourhood, the erection of which has been carried out under the direction of the Rev. C. M. Harvey, Rector of Acton. Dr. Verrinder, organist of Christ Church, Lancaster Gate, presided at the opening, and displayed the quality and power of the instrument with good effect.

AMERSHAM.—A Concert was given in the Town Hall on Thursday the 14th ult, under the auspices of the Literary Club. Mr. Stone, jun., of Chesham, sang "Love's request" and "The Thorn" with much effect, Miss Mead gave with equal success "A fisher maiden" (all three songs being encored), and Miss Jarvis sang "A winter night" and "Five o'clock in the morning" with good taste. A pianoforte solo by Mrs. Cheese also gave much satisfaction. The Concert was a decided success.

BIRMINGHAM.—The Festival Choral Society gave the first Concert of the series on Friday evening the 8th ult., when several glees, &c., were sung, including a new part-song by Mr. A. R. Gaul, entitled "The better land." The vocalists were Mdme. Trebell, Signor Dorini, Mr. Edward Lloyd, and Herr Behrens.—The Messrs. Harrison gave their second subscription Concert on Wednesday the 13th ult., when Charles Halle's band was the attraction of the evening. The selection performed included Beethoven's "Leonora," No. 3, Haydn's Symphony in G Major, and Mendelssohn's Overture to the Midsummer Night's Dream. Mdme. Edith Wynne and Signor Foli were the vocalists, Mdme. Néruda solo violinist, and Mr. Charles Hallé solo pianist.—The Carl Rosa Opera Company were at the Theatre Royal the week commencing the 4th ult.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—The Auckland Musical Society gave the first Concert of the season in the Town Hall on the 27th November. The programme consisted of a selection from Handel's Messiah, "Triumphal March," from Madame Dolby's 5t. Dorothea, and Macfarren's May-day. The artists engaged were Madame Edith Wynne, Mdlle. Bettha Brousil, Mons. Adolphe Brousil, &c. The performance was a great success, and reflected the highest credit on Mr. Kilburn, the conductor.

the conductor.

Brighton.—The second series of Philharmonic Concerts was brought to a successful termination on the 9th ult. by a performance of Mendelssohn's Oratorio St. Paul, which reflected the highest credit upon all concerned. The band and chorus numbered about 250, the former including some of the most eminent artists from the principal orchestras in the Metropolis. The solo singers were Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Madame Antoinette Sterling, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Signor Foli, the minor bass parts being allotted to Mr. T. Ainsworth. It is needless to say how such well-known vocalists acquitted themselves; but a word of praise must be given to the choir, which had been so well prepared by Mr. Kingsbury (who most ably conducted the work) that scarcely a fault was perceptible in the rendering of the difficult choruses with which the Oratorio abounds, "Stone him to death," "Happy and blest," "Rise up, arise," and "O great is the depth" being especially worthy of commendation. Mr. George Watts deserves the hearty thanks of all music lovers, not only for the spirited way in which he has carried on these concerts, but for the introduction of a work of such magnitude as St. Paul: and we trust that the excellent manner in which it was rendered, and the warmth with which it was received, will encourage him to persevere in the honourable career he has chosen.

Bristol.—On Friday the 1st ult. a Concert was given by the Bristol

in the honourable career he has chosen.

Bristol.—On Friday the 1st ult. a Concert was given by the Bristol and Clifton Orchestral Society in the Colston Hall. The programme was excellently selected, and all the pieces well rendered, great credit being due to Mr. George Riseley, the Conductor, for the pains-taking manner in which he has worked to achieve so great a success. The vocalists were Miss Ada Jackson and Mr. Lawford Huxtable, both of whom sang with taste and artistic skill.—On Wednesday the 19th ult. a Concert was given in the Colston Hall in aid of the Organ Fund at St. George's Church, Brandon Hill. The programme included several orchestral and vocal works of importance. Miss Ada Jackson was the vocalist. The band and chorus consisted of ninety performers, and was led by Mr. A. W. Waite and conducted by Mr. Stimpson, Mus. Bac.

Stimpson, Mus. Bac.

CLIFTON.—On Thursday the 14th ult. an evening Concert was given in the Victoria Rooms by Mr. J. C. Daniel. The principal vocalists were Mdlle. Emma Albani, Mdlle. Zaré Thalberg, Mdlle. Ghiotti, Signor Piazza, Signor Scolara, and Signor Ghiberti; and the instrumentalists were Mdlle. Gaul (piano) and Mr. Radcliffe (flute). Signor Viazza, Signor Scolara, and signor Ghiberti; and the instrumentalists were Mdlle. Gaul (piano) and Mr. Radcliffe (flute). Signor Vianesi ably conducted.—The thirteenth annual evening Concert of the Clifton College took place on the 20th ult. Handel's Joshua was given as the first part of the programme, and was well rendered, the choral portions being taken by the College Choral Society, numbering 120 voices, the band being also connected with the College. The solo parts were sung by Mr. S. D. Pears, Mr. T. S. Saxton, and Mr. V. V. Williams. The second part was miscellaneous.

COLMBROW. NEAR WINDSOR.—The Collabrook Choral Class gave

COLNBROOK, NEAR WINDSOR.—The Colnbrook Choral Class gave a concert on the 29th November in the Public Hall. The choir numbered forty voices. The solo vocalists were Miss Emma Christian and Mr. Orlando Christian. Miss Saunders presided at a new American organ by Holman, Miss Rosalind Christian at the pianotorte, and Mr. R. Ratcliff conducted. The performance was a decided success.

Derny.—The Midland Railway Recreation Club gave its first Concert on Friday the 1st ult., in the Shareholders' Room, adjoining the railway station. The principal vocalists were Miss Peel, Mr. Race, and Mr. Field Baldwin; solo violin Mr. E. King, solo flute, Mr. A. G. King. There was an efficient orchestra of twenty-three performers, under the conductorship of Mr. Belfield. Mr. Parkinson presided at the pianoforte.

DUMPRIS.—The Philharmonic Society gave a successful performance of Handel's Samson on the evening of the 15th ult. A select orchestra from Edinburgh, led by Mr. Hope-Dambmann, ably supported the vocalists in their efforts. The choruses went excellently, the voices being fresh and well balanced. Members of the Society rendered the solos with great success. Mr. J. G. Pearson, organist of Greyfriars, presided at the harmonium, and the whole performance reflected great credit on the Conductor, Mr. J. G. Gooden, organist of St. John's Church.

St. John's Church.

EDINBURGH.—The organ performances given periodically during the University session by Sir Herbert Oakeley, in his Class-room in Park Place, began on the 7th ult. The selection of pieces included works of the great masters, and also some of those of the less eminent composers, which gave additional interest to the programme, because of the novelty thus imparted to a portion of it. The performance was highly satisfactory. —The sixth Concert for the season of the Choral Union took place on the 18th ult. The band, numbering about fifty-five, was led by Mr. Carrodus, and conducted by Mr. Adam Hamilton. Mr. Carrodus also appeared in the capacity of solo violinist, and the singer was Miss Enriquez. The programme included Mendelssohn's Scotch Symphony; the overtures "Leonora," No. 3 (Beethoven), and "Ruler of the Spirits" (Weber); an Andante and Minuet by Professor Oakeley, conducted by the composer; and the brilliantly instrumented introduction to the third act of Lohesgrin, which was highly appreciated and encored. The performance of the overture to Leonora was most meritorious, the band quite entering into the spirit of this greatest of overtures.

Of overtures.

EXETER.—On the 1st ult. Miss Godolphin gave her second Concert at the Royal Public Rooms, assisted by Miss Marian Lynton, Mr. Chaplin Henry, and Mr. Turle Lee, who, besides playing planoforte soles, accompanied the songs.—The members of the Madrigal Society gave their accustomed winter Concert at the Royal Public Rooms on the 14th ult. The programme was well selected, and included Mendelssohn's "On a Lake," several favourite madrigals, and part-songs, all of which were well rendered. The conductor was Mr. Baly, R.A.M.

FARNHAM, SURREY.—The fifth Concert of the Farnham Musical Society was given on the 12th ult., when a programme of sacred and accular music was well performed, a marked improvement in the partsinging being evident. The solo vocalists were the Misses Harris and M. J. Nash, Mrs. Scammell, Messrs. Sydenham, West, Kingham, and Hawker. A new song, composed and sung by the conductor, entitled "The Expected Ship," was most favourably received. The pianoforte playing of the Misses Rennie (pupils of Mr. Sydenham) was very praiseworthy. The accompaniments were ably played by Miss Sidebotham, Miss C. Julius, Miss Wells, and Mr. Sydenham.

GORLESTON.—Herr Louis Löffler gave a pianoforte recital and lecture on the great musical composers in St. Andrew's Hall, on the 7th ult., to a full and highly-appreciative audience. His illustrations—including the "Sonata Pathétique" and "Moonlight Sonata" of Beethoven, the "Harmonious Blacksmith" of Handel, and the "Home, sweet home" of Thabberg—were admirably calculated to display not only the styles of the various composers, but the versatility of the pianist's powers; and his efforts were rewarded by warm and well-deserved applause. The proceeds of the concert were devoted to the St. Andrew's Church Organ Fund.

GRAVESEND.—On the 13th ult, the annual Concert in aid of the funds of the Customs' Orphanage was given at the Assembly Rooms, under the direction of Mr. W. Phillips. The artists comprised Miss Margaret Hancock, Mdme. Ashton, Mr. Albert Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Baynes, Mr. H. P. Matthews, Mr. H. Ashton, Mr. Fan, Mr. Carpenter, and Mr. Fountain Meen. The concerted music was contributed by Messrs. Ashton, Cozens, Meen, and Hubbard (the English Glee Union), supplemented by Mdme. Ashton as soloist. Miss Turner, R.A.M., played a Sonata of Mozart's; Mr. Fountain Meen accompanied.

HEBDEN BRIDGE.—On Saturday the 25th November the new organ, built by Messrs Forster and Andrews, of Hull, for S. James's Church, was opened by Dr. J. V. Roberts, organist and choirmaster of the Parish Church, Halifax.

LECESTER.—The first Concert of the New Choral Society for the present season took place at the Temperance Hall, on Monday evening the 11th ult., when Handel's Oratorio Jephiha was performed for the first time in Leicester. The chorus and band numbered about 250, the latter being materially strengthened. The principal singers were Miss S. Ferrari, Mrs. Poole, Mr. W. A. Frost, Mr. W. H. Cummings, and Mr. Lewis Thomas. Miss Ferrari's singing of the music of 1 phis left nothing to be desired, Mrs. Poole received great applause for her excellent performance of the music of Storge, Jephtha's wife, Mr. Cummings gave a highly satisfactory rendering of the part of Jephtha, and Mr. Thomas fully sustained the reputation he has long held here by his skilful singing of the music of Zebul. The magnificent choruses were sung in a manner which reflected great credit on the Society. The accompaniments to the ordinary recitatives were played on the harmonium by Mr. H. B. Ellis, organist of St. John's. Mr. Harcock, M.B., Oxon., organist of St. Martin's, conducted with much decision.

LEITH.—A successful rendering of Haydn's Creation was given on the 7th ult., in Junction Street Hall, by the member so fthe Choral Union. The choir consisted of about 130 voices, which were on the whole well balanced. The principal choral numbers were sung with much firmness, "The Heavens are telling," "A chieved is the glorious work,"

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Non success Andre attrac audier soprar perfor mann, also h manifi from a and the trio and chorus "The Lord is great" being especially effective. The soprano solos were sustained by Madame Tonnelier, Mr. M. Costa Ingham was entrusted with the tenor solos, and Mr. John Nutton, of Durham Cathedral, was the bass, the florid air "Rolling in foaming billows" being particularly well rendered. The orchestra, ted by Mr. Hope-Dambmann, gave a very creditable rendering of the "Representation of chaos." Mr. Tom Craig presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. Bromley at the harmonium. Mr. G. M. Davidson conducted.

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LINCOLN.—The Messiah was given by the Lincoln Choral Society at the Corn Exchange on the 5th ult., before a crowded audience. The band numbered about too performers, and was under the conductorship of Mr. Mason. Madame Billinie Porter, who made her first appearance before a Lincoln audience, was highly successful, especially in "I know that my Redeemer liveth." The other vocalists were Mr. Mason, Mr. Dulkerton, Mr. Pullein, and Mr. Hadley. Mr. W. Cooke led the band, and Mr. W. Mason, jun., presided at the pianoforte.

led the band, and Mr. W. Mason, jun., presided at the pianoforte.

Liverpool.—The Symphony in C. Minor, by Gade, produced on Saturday night the 2nd ult., at the invitation Concert of the Societa Armonica, was especially interesting. With the exception of a slight unsteadiness here and there among the amateur band, the performance was excellent. The other important orchestral items in the programme were Mozart's Il Seraglio Overture, and the Andanie from Schubert's "Tragic Symphony." Mr. Armstrong conducted. The vocalists were Mr. W. Armstrong and Miss Madeleine Roe.—A crowded audience attended the Philharmonic Hall on Saturday the 9th ult., to hear the band of the Grenadier Guards and other attractions. The overture to Semiramide and the Zanatia (Auber) selection were splendidly played by the band, the solos for cornet, clarionet, and petite clarionet being performed in the able manner characteristic of Mr. Dan Godfrey's band. Mülle. Emma Howson and Signor Vizzani were the vocalists. The appearance of Herr Wilhelmi was the signal for an enthusiastic outburst of applause. His playing was marked by a breadth and purity of tone and manual dexterity which could scarcely be excelled. Madame Grey contributed a harp solo, and Mr. Henry Rowe a concertina solo. Mr. W. H. Jude presided at the pianoforte.

Maldennead.—Mr. E. S. Harding, Organist of Bray, gave an

MAIDENHEAD.—Mr. E. S. Harding, Organist of Bray, gave an evening Concert on the 15th ult., which was well attended. The programme included songs, vocal duets and trios, and two duets for harp and piano by Mr. W. F. Frost and Mr. E. S. Harding. The vocalists were Miss Griffiths, Mr. Christian, and Mr. V. Harding. Mr. Ernest S. Harding conducted.

S. Harding conducted.

MAIDSTONE.—The St. Paul's Choral Society, which has been recently formed, gave its first Concert in the Boys' Schoolroom on Monday the 18th ult., to a large and appreciative audience. The programme opened with the Overture to Les Diamants de la Couronne, which was well played by a band consisting of some of the principal amateurs of the town, assisted by a portion of the band of the Royal Marines (Chatham). Professor G. A. Macfarren's Cantata May Day was also excellently rendered, under the conductorship of Mr. J. B. Groom, the recitative and aria for the May Queen being sung with much taste by Miss Wallis. The second part of the programme was miscellaneous, and included a violin solo by Mr. D. Pine (encored), and songs, &c., by the Misses Wallis, Mrs. Johnson, and Mr. G. Appleyard. Mrs. Hobday presided at the pianoforte.

NANTWICH.—The Philharmonic Society gave the first Concert of the second season on Monday evening the 18th ult., when Haydn's First Mass was performed. The solo vocalists were Miss Salkeld, Mr. Duxbury, and Mr. Minton. Mr. G. D. Harris (organist of the Parish Church) conducted.

Church) conducted.

Newporr, Isle or Wight.—A concert was given by Mr. R. Roche at the Volunteer Hall on Thursday evening the 14th ult. before a large and appreciative audience. Madame Antoinette Sterling made a great effect in her songs, "When the tide comes in " (Barnby, "Don't be sorrowful, darling," and "Caller Herrin" (Neal Gow); in all she was enthusiastically encored. Miss Fannie Lanham, R.A.M., who came with a good reputation, fully sustained it, and created a most favourable impression. Mr. Cross, principal bass of Sal'sbury Cathedral, was also highly successful. The duet, "Love and War," by Messra, Roche and Cross, was a most effective piece of vocalisation. Mr. J. T. Read, organist of Carisbrooke Church, was the accompanist. At the commencement and conclusion of each part of the programme, instrumental selections were played by Mr. J. L. Gubbins (violin), Mr. Adkins (second violin), Mr. S. Pring (viola), Mr. Read (violoncello), and Mr. A. V. Firth, R.A.M.

NEW NORT, SALOR-ON Wednesday evening the 6th ult., the members of the Choral Society of the town gave their first Concert of this season. The first part of the programme included a selection from Judas Maccabaus, the choruses of which were rendered with great spirit and precision. The songs and duets were all taken by members of the Society. The band played the Overture to Saul and the March from St. Polycarp (Sir F. A. G. Ouseley). The second part of the concert was miscellaneous. The band and chorus numbered sixty performers. Mr. Smart, organist of the Parish Church, conducted.

performers. Mr. Smart, organist of the Parish Church, conducted.

Nonwich.—An evening Concert, in continuation of the series so successfully inaugurated by Mr. James Darken, was given in St. Andrew's Hall on the 1st ult. The Concert was rendered additionally attractive by the appearance, for the first time before a Norwich audience, of Miss Agnes Zimmermann, pianist, and Mdlle. Corani, soprano vocalist. Beethoven's Trio in C minor was the most finished performance of the evening, the executants being Miss Agnes Zimmermann, Madame Norman-Néruda, and Signor Platti, all of whom were also highly appreciated in their respective solos. Mdlle. Corani gave manifestations throughout of a most careful training, but was suffering from a severe cold. Miss Enriquez, who is an established favourite in Norwich, sang Gluck's air, "Che farô," with her accustomed sweetness and power. Mr. Kingston Rudd acted as accompanist.

Perth.—On the 7th ult, the members of the Euterpeon Society gave their first Concert of this season in the City Hall, supplemented by a large and efficient orchestra, led by Mr. Carrodus, and conducted by Dr. Sullivan. The first part of the programme consisted of Spohr's God, Thou art great, and Gade's Ert King's Daughter, both of which were given with great precision. The solos, as usual, were rendered by members of the Society, with the exception of the baritone solo in the Ert King's Daughter which was well sung by Mr. Rudolf Hempel. The second part was chiefly orchestral. Mozart's "Non piu Andrai" was rendered by Mr. Hempel in such a spirited manner as to secure an encore. Mr. Carrodus performed two movements of Mendelsson's Violin Concerto and a Fantasia on Scotch airs. The playing of the orchestra was remarkable for precision and accuracy. Mrs. Hempel and Miss Steele deserve the highest praise for their labours in drilling the chorus.

PLYMOUTH.—The performance of Handel's Messiah at the Guildhall on the 13th ult. was one of the best ever given by the Plymouth Vocal Association. The principal vocalists were Mrs. Arnold, Miss Lansdown, Miss Triggs. Mrs. Owens, Messrs. G. D. Bellamy, H. P. Sawday, Watts, W. H. K. Wright, and Jervis. The choruses were excellently rendered under the skilful direction of Mr. Löhr. Mr. Pardew led the band, and Mr. Faull presided at the harmonium.

Dano, and Mr. Pauli presided at the harmonium.

RAMSGATE.—A Concert, in aid of the funds of the Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Royal Dispensary, was given in St. James's Hall, on the 18th ult., by the Ramsgate Amateur Choral Society. The programme consisted of soles and choruses from The Creation, and a miscellaneous selection of soles, glees, and part-songe. The principal parts were sustained by Mrs. Rogers, Mr. J. A. Birch, Mr. A. Moulding, and Mr. J. Higgins. Mr. J. B. Lott, Mus. Bac., Deputy Organist of Canterbury Cathedral, presided at the harmonium, and Mr. R. Walker at the pianoforte. Mr. J. A. Birch and Mr. T. Duckett were the Conductors.

pianoforte. Mr. J. A. Birch and Mr. T. Duckett were the Conductors. Richmond, Yorks.—Mr. James H. Rooks, organist of the Parish Church, gave his annual Concert in the Assembly Rooms on Monday evening the 4th ult, before a crowded audience. The programme was well arranged, and was carried out by the following ladies and gentlemen: Vocalists—Miss Clarke, Miss L. Sanderson, Mrs. E. D. Swarbeck, Miss J. Young, Alderman J. G. Croft (ex-Mayor), Mr. C. G. Croft, M.A.. Mr. W. H. Emsley, Herr Gruber, Rev. C. T. Hales, M.A., Mr. H. C. Priestman, Mr. E. D. Swarbreck, Mr. C. G. Tate, J.P., and the Rev. J. S. Warman, M. A. Instrumentalists—Pianoforte, Lady Lawson, Miss Bennett, Miss Sanderson, and Miss Louie Young; Violins, Colonel Bradley and Herr Otto Deuk; Violoncello, Sir John Lawson, Bart.; Harp, Miss Croft: Harmoniums, Mr. Pulman and Mr. Rooks; American Organ, Mr. Rooks. The programme included the Overtures to Guillaume Fell and Zampa, a Trio for Piano, Violin, and Cello by Beethoven, and vocal selections from Don Giovanni, Il Flauno Magico, Faust, and Lurine.

ROCHESTER.—On Monday evening the 11th ult. the members of the Choral Society gave a fine performance of Handel's Oratorio The Messiah in the new Corn Exchange. Eminent artists, vocal and instrumental, were engaged, the solo vocalists being Mrs. Osgood, Madame Patey, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. R. Hilton. The orchestra was led by Mr. J. T. Willy, the Trumpet Obbligato was played by Mr. T. Harper, and the Rev. W. H. Nutter conducted.

SHERBORNE.—The organ in Sherborne Abbey, recently improved by Gray and Davison, was re-opened on Tuesday, November 28th, with two Cathedral Services. The Lord Bishop of Salisbury preached at Morning Service, and the Rev. C. F. Newell at the Evening Service. Mr. H. I. Vaughan, the organist of the Abbey, presided at the organ in the Services, and gave a Recital on the organ in the afternoon.

STATEM ISLAND (NEW YORK).—The first Philharmonic Concert, at Association Hall, took place on the 1st ult., and proved a great success. The artists were Miss Antonia Henne (contrallo), Mr. Carl Hamm (violin), Mrs. Maretzek Bertucat (harp), and Mr. Richard Hoffman (solo pianist). Mr. Richard Hoffman played, by desire, his new composition, "Barcarolle," which was warmly applauded and greatly admired.

admired.

SURBITON.—The members of the Christ Church Choral Society gave their first Concert of the season at the Christ Church Schools, Alpha Road, on Monday evening the 11th ult., conductor Mr. Sebastian Hart, organist of Christ Church. A feature in the concert was the performance of the Surbiton Orchestral Society, composed of gentlemen amateurs of Surbiton and neighbourhood. The vocalists were Miss Batho, Miss G. Wiltshire, Mr. A. J. Lane, Mr. C. J. Unwin, and Mr. A. Barrett. The gems of the evening were Gade's Cantata Spring's Message and Macfarren's May Day. Mr. Basil Philpott and Mr. Sebastian Hart presided at the pianoforte. At the following Thursday evening practice, the members presented their Conductor, Mr. R. Sebastian Hart, with a very handsome baton, made of ivory, with silver-gilt ends beautifully embossed, and his monogram engraved on the handle.

LURBIDGE.—The first Concert of the season was given by the Choral

UXBRIDGE.—The first Concert of the season was given by the Choral Society on the 14th ult. The first part consisted of a portion of Handel's \$\frac{1}{2}\text{ephtha}\text{a}\$, and the second of a miscellaneous selection of secular music. The soloists were Miss Agnes Larkcom, Miss Bolingbroke, and Mr. Henry Guy. Mr. T. Mountain and Mr. Walsh played the harmonium and pianoforte accompaniments, and Mr. A. D. Miles conducted.

conducted.

WARRINGTON.—The Musical Society gave a performance of Handel's Acis and Galatea on the 19th ult. The principal singers were Miss Banks, Signor Fabrini, and Mr. Orlando Christian, who did full justice to the solos, and the choruses were all that could be desired. The second part, which was miscellaneous, included the solo and chorus "The Crusader's Song" (Niels W. Gade), the solo given with great effect by Signor Fabrini. Mr. Christian was encored in "Nancy Lee" (Adams), and Miss Banks, who sang in place of Madame T. Wells (indisposed), was recalled for her singing of J. L. Roeckel's "Once upon a time." Mr. Nicholson was solo flute, Mr. Pattison organist, and Dr. Hiles conducted.

WEYBRIDGE.—On Monday evening, the 27th November, Mr. H. P. G. Brooke's Choral Class gave the first Concert of the season before a large audience. The part-songs were well sung, the marks of expression being strictly observed. Songs and duets by Miss Lampard, Miss Kellock, and Messrs. Colbourn and W. F. Harrison, were exceedingly well rendered.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—On Friday evening, the 1st. ult., a crowded audience assembled at the Agricultural Hall, to hear the Festival Choral Society's performance of Elijah. The leading singers were Madame Nouver, Madame Poole, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Signor Foli. The first chorus, "Help, Lord," showed that the choir wasnie excellent training, and thoroughly under the control of the Conductor. The Baal choruses were well sung, especially "Baal, we cry to thee." The terzetto, "Lift thine eyes," in which Miss Grainger took part, was re-demanded. The band, led by Mr. T. M. Abbott, was most efficient. Mr. F. H. Bradley acted as accompanist, and Mr. Stockley conducted.

Mr. F. H. Bradley acted as accompanist, and Mr. Stockiey conducted.

York.—The second of the Winter Concerts took place on the 29th
Nov., when an excellent programme was finely rendered, the artists
being Madame Norman. Néruda, Herr Straus, Mons. Vieuxtemps,
and Mr. Charles Hallé. The concerted pieces were Mendelssohn's
Trio in C Minor, Op. 66—for Piano, Violin, and Cello, Spohr's Duet
for two Violins, and Mozart's Quartet in E flat. Miss Rose Hersee
was the vocalist. Mr. Wilson deserves the praise and gratitude of all
lovers of music for putting such a musical treat in their way.—
The organ in the Centenary Chapel, having been thoroughly
renovated and considerably enlarged by Mr. Denman, organ-builder
of this city, was opened on the 8th ult. by Dr. Naylor, of Scarborough.
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ORGAN APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. Walter Barnett to St. Andrew's, South Newton, Salisbury.—Mr. George Kitchin, Choirmaster and Assistant Organist to Christ Church, Wanstead.—Mr. Sidney G. Fell to Holy Trinity, Sydenham.—Mr. Edward Morris, Organist and Choirmaster to All Saints', Aden Grove, Stoke Newington.—Mr. Walter P. Fairclough, Organist and Choirmaster to St. James's, Glossop.—Mr. C. W. Hanson, Organist and Choirmaster to St. James's, Paul's, New Wandsworth.—Mr. A. A. Yeatman, Organist and Choirmaster to St. Mary's, Spital Square, E.

CHOIR APPOINTMENT.-Mr. Frank Brough (Solo Tenor) to Christ Church, Mayfair.

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		***	***	***	***		our Smith.
	poor soul s						redith Ball.
-	bbing and fl		400			*	B. Halley.
	The Spirit of	4,0		***			F. Taylor.
	Velcome, lov						el Watson.
	he boatie ro			rrange			el Watson.
-	How beautifu						F. Schira.
-	The Rose of			•••	***		el Watson.
-							
	We meet aga Silent river (						
							el Watson.
	Ode to Spring Sunshine	g (for I	emaie	voices	only		. H. Tully.
		***	***	***	***		B. Halley.
-	lve Maria	***	***	***	***	***	F. Schira.
	Daybreak		11.	***	***		
	es, every flo				***	M.	F. Gordon.
22 1	laste, haste, (for Fema					E	E. J. Loder.
ar E	He loves and				***		el Watson.
	The little Chu					MICHA	ci watson.
20 1	(for Mixed					V.	E. Becker.
19 7	le little Bird	s that	sit and	l sing	***	G. A.	Macfarren.
18 1	My Love is fa	air as S	Summe	er morn	ing		T. Distin.
17 7	The Summer	cloud	***	***		Odo	ardo Barri.
16 (	Good-night to	the d	ay	***	***	T. G.	B. Halley.
15 7	The Arrow as	nd the	Song	***	***	J. F	. Simpson.
14 7	The Birdes th	hat had	l left t	heir son	ng	G. A.	Macfarren.
13 (	County Guy	***		***		G. A.	Macfarren.
12 7	The Winds	***	***	***			C. J. Frost.
II S	Spring Song	***	***	***	***	J.	L. Hatton.
10 E	Bonnie May		***	***	***	J. H.	L. Glover.
9 7	The Forsaker	1	***	***	***	J.	L. Hatton.
8 I	thought of t	hee	***		***	W	. F. Banks.
7 0	good bye		***	***		J.	L. Hatton.
6 M	Moonlight				***	J. H.	L. Glover.
5 F	airy voices	***	***	***	***		B. Halley.
-	he Winter b		ver				llen Avery.
	Where the pe	-		falleth	1		E. J. Loder.
-	Corin's Fate	•			***		R. Turner.
I "	Tis silent ev	е			***	Micha	el Watson.
			be co	ntinue			
		1-0	,		,	_	

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lative.

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THE real object in publishing the above Memoir should be fully explained, or I might justly be accused of conceit in writing my own life. My meaning is plainly and simply as follows: A short time ago an attack was made upon me, and my musical degree, in the Musical Times, by an Organist in the City of London. All that took place will be given in this work. Forthwith I announced "A Treatise on Musical Degrees, English and Foreign," but ill health and other causes have prevented the publication. I now that of after testing the point by advertising, that no one will order the said Treatise probably because the idea or its that it will be desired. neath and other causes have prevented the publication. I now find, after testing the point by advertising, that no one will order the said Treatise, probably because the idea exists that it will be dry and uninteresting. But it is suggested that if I could combine with the said treatise some other matter that would be amusing as well as interesting (from being Truth and not Fiction), the work would sell by thousands. On this ground, and because I very much wish the "Treatise" to appear, I am induced to announce this work, and also because I have been grossly misrepresented in many ways, and naturally desire that much should be known that is now unknown. I may venture to assert, without conceit, that I believe the "ups and downs" of my rather eventful life, so far, will prove very interesting, and, in some respects, useful. The account will be written, where practicable, in an amusing and facetious style, and, which probably may be imagined from the title of the "Career" and the "Contents," as here given.

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336 Now doth the Lord I	560 Agnus Dei-Lord Almighty 3	(B. and Chorus) 2 605 Indra, who when day is bright'ning 2
337 In tears of grief 11	FARMER'S MASS IN Bb.	606 Pow'rs above, receive our offering 3
353 I wrestle and pray (Motett) 4 362 Be not afraid (Motett) 6 Blessing glory (Motett) 6	568 Kyrie eleison—Lord have mercy 3 569 Gloria in excelsis—Glory be to God 8	HILLER'S SONG OF VICTORY.
Blessing glory (Motett) 6	570 Credo—I believe in one God 8 571 Sanctus—Holy, Holy, Holy 2 572 Benedictus—Blessed is He 3	596 The Lord great wonders 3 597 Praise, O Jerusalem 2
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531 Lord, our Redeemer 3 532 Let us not divide 2	573 O Lamb of God and Grant us Thy peace	600 Praise the Lord 6
533 Beloved Saviour 2	GADE'S THE ERL KING'S DAUGHTER.	HUMMEL'S MASS IN Bb.
534 {Rest here in peace }3	Com Atoma Sta Otal antana	438 Kyrie eleison 2 439 Gloria in excelsis 6
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535 Christians be joyful 3	GADE'S ZION.	441 Sanctus and Benedictus 4 442 Agnus Dei and Dona nobis 3
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538 Come and thank Him 3 539 Glory be to God Almighty 3	The Lord hath in Egypt	COMMUNION SERVICE IN Bb.
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626 Lo! day's golden glory 8 627 Who shall be fleetest 11	GADE'S CRUSADERS.	HUMMEL'S MASS IN D.
628 Fear or doubting 3 629 Protect them, Almighty 6	653 Flame-like the sand-waste glows 2 654 (Crusader's Song (Shine, holy sun))	448 Kyrie eleison 2
BENEDICT'S ST. PETER.	654 Crusader's Song (Shine, holy sun) } 4 655 Father! from a distant land } 4 656 Silent, creeping so light 2	450 Credo 6
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672 flt is a spirit		COMMUNION SERVICE IN D.
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616 This is one of them Surely thou art also—They are all revolters	524 Sadly bendeth earthward 2	456 Sanctus and Benedictus 4 457 Agnus Dei and Dona nobis 3
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fro He is worthy to die	525 { Sing and be joyful }2 How glorious is the home above }2	MENDELSSOHN'S
620 Fear thou not 2	527 Behold us here 2	MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.
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344 Kyrie eleison 4 553 Gloria in excelsis 15.	342 Credo 4 323 Sanctus and Benedictus 2	MENDELSSOHN'S 95TH PSALM. 646 For His is the sea 4
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Give unto the humble)	522 The Veil was rent 2	639 Depart, ye sons of Aaron 2

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			1	٠.	3			
	MACFARRI	EN'S I	MAY	-DAY			1	SCHUBERT'S SPOHR'S CHRISTIAN'S PRAYER.
No		meen				nce.		COMMUNION SERVICE IN Bb. No. Pence.  Pence. 432 In Heaven, oh, Jehovah 2
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609	Lads and lasses	haster	a all	***	***	6	493	Gloria in excelsis 6 435 O may Thy will be done
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499	Credo		***	***	***	18.	-	
501	Benedictus		***	***	***	4	509	Gloria in excelsis 8 A. SULLIVAN.
502	Agnus Dei	*** *	***	0+0	1 **	0	511	Credo 6
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505 506	Sanctus		***	***	***	2	1	Prostho within this guist vale
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500	Agua Det	•••	***	***	***	3	576	Leaves fall from the trees 2 544 Youth and love 2
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dor.	righted Det	•••	••	***	***	3		(O mighty Bel Susanna 4
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486			••	***	0+0	3	426	Shame! shame! 3   407 Thou sittest at the right hand 4
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487	Kyrie eleison		**	***	***	2	429	All merciful God 2 300 Virtue, truth, and innocence Esther 2
488	Gloria in excelsi	is .	4.0	***	***	6	356	His earthly race is run 2 410 Vouchsafe, O Lord Chandos Te Deum 11
489			**	***	***	3	339	(He was the Christ) 402 We praise Thee, O God! 2
491			+ 00	***	***	2	431	{Beloved Lord }2   398 Ye sons of Israel, mourn Esther 11

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The case is made of the best seasoned material, and, to prevent warping, &c., the Models in Rosewood and Walnut are veneered both inside and out.

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